

26th February 1934]

UNSTARRED QUESTION

Education

Applications from Viswa-Brahmans for the award of foreign scholarships.

708 Q.—Rao Sahib Pandit GANALA RAMAMURTI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Excise be pleased to state—

(a) whether any student of either sex of the Viswa-Brahmana community in this Province applied for any foreign scholarship since 1931; and

(b) if so, whether the Government have granted the same?

A.—(a) & (b) No application for a scholarship tenable outside India by a member of the Vishwa-Brahmana community was received by Government during the period in question nor was any such scholarship granted.

[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET FOR 1934-35.

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—“The general discussion of the Budget will now continue.”

* Rao Bahadur A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—“Mr. President, Sir, in the course of the last two days' discussions, some hon. Members have deemed it to be a matter for gratification and congratulation that even in these days of acute distress and when for the past few years the whole world has been subject to a financial depression of an unprecedented character and extent, we should have been able to balance our Budget. It seems to me, Sir, that the surplus and more particularly the manner in which that surplus has been arrived at is the sorriest part of the whole affair. The surplus, if I may say so with due respect, has been arrived at in utter disregard of the realities of the situation, and the manner in which that surplus has been reached betokens a complete and regrettable lack of imagination on the part of the authorities responsible. A surplus, Sir, betokens prosperity, prosperity of some sort at least. It seems to me, Sir, that a Government which tries to create for itself a prosperous situation when the people, on whom it has got to depend for its taxes are undergoing an acute distress, can have very little sympathy for the people whose welfare it is supposed to look after. The Government may perhaps congratulate themselves and feel happy over the fact that having met their needs, they will have at the end of the year some margin to console them. But I should like only to remind the Government that that happiness is achieved over the misery of the people. We have been begging and praying for the past two years and more particularly during the last few months for some consideration, for some sympathy. This question of land revenue is a matter in which the Government have taken to themselves powers in two directions—powers on the executive side and powers on the judicial side. We have

[Mr. A. T. Pannirselvam] [26th February 1934]

no other person or body to go to for help except the Government themselves, and I should have thought that the Government which arrogate to themselves judicial powers as well of deciding whether the assessment is proper or not, would show more consideration than if they had been merely an executive authority. Our prayers and our petitions, our deputations and our representations, and may I say, in the elegant language taught to us on a previous occasion by the Hon. the Finance Member himself, the 'howlings' of the representatives of the people in this House, have left the Government absolutely unmoved. And we are told now on the top of this all, that we have got a surplus Budget, a surplus Budget for us to congratulate ourselves over.

"Dealing with the question of land revenue remission, Sir, the Hon. the Finance Member has given us, if I may say so, a patriarchal sort of sermon. He has given us a lengthy discourse as to the disaster that would befall the finances of this Province if this 25 per cent remission which this House recommended at its last sitting were accepted. It is a point worth noting, Sir, that the Hon. the Finance Member's speech is directly silent about the recommendations of the Finance Committee. Even at the last meeting when we passed this resolution of 25 per cent remission, Member after Member made it clear that the resolution for the 25 per cent remission was only a measure of despair, and that if Government had only shown a good gesture by accepting the Finance Committee's recommendations—a Committee of which the Hon. the Finance Member himself was the President—they would have wholeheartedly thanked the Government, and they would certainly not have pressed for the 25 per cent reduction. Why then, this discreet silence on the part of the Government with regard to the 18½ per cent reduction, recommended by that Committee? What would have been the result of accepting the recommendation? and why should the Government coolly avoid any reference to that? Then again, Sir, we are twitted with the remark 'whom would this extra remission benefit?' We are told, Sir, that the petty mirasidar, the ten-rupee pattadar, is not going to benefit to any extent, though in the same breath, the Hon. the Finance Member admits that Rs. 2½ or Rs. 3 remission to a man who is probably making his living with Rs. 50 a year would be some sort of relief. It would at least help him to pay the salt-tax which every man living in this country has to pay. Apart from the ten-rupee pattadars, we have been told that this House, and more particularly the Government, have got their own responsibilities to the landless labourer and to the petty shop-keeper. Sir, that presupposes that we the people of the Province, the big mirasidar as against the small mirasidar, the landed as against the landless, the agriculturist as against the shop-keeper, are living in different and separate water-tight compartments. I can only state that a relief like this granted to the landholder will accrue to the benefit of every one resident in this Province. It is a fact well known to the Government and well known to everybody that in days of prosperity, the mirasidars and landowners increased the recompense for the labourer; that the poor agriculturists, the agricultural labourer, the

26th February 1934] [Mr. A. T. Pannirselvam]

landless labourer, was not left off with the mamul of two measures of paddy which he had been given from time immemorial. In days of prosperity, the mirasidars have afforded relief to the landless man also by increasing his wages, by giving him, in addition to the usual paddy, also wages in cash. Now, Sir, if you go and reduce the available net income, if you go and cut down by this extraordinary and exorbitantly high rate of taxation, the net income from the land, it is not merely the big mirasidar that you are going to affect; you are going to affect the landless labourer as well. The mirasidar in order to keep himself alive and floating, will have to reduce the wages that he gives to the labourer; in the same way, I can only submit that money collected by way of taxation gets to be money locked up in the Government coffers, while money left with the mirasidar, whether he be big or small, is money left floating in the country which is bound to migrate from man to man, from the bigger to the smaller man, from the landowner to the landless and from the agriculturist to the shop-keeper. By affording relief in the matter of land revenue, I would submit that you would be benefiting not merely the mirasidars; not merely the bigger ones among them, but the whole lot of them.

“ Just one word, Sir, about the question of the salary cut. The Hon. the Finance Member's speech would lead one to infer that this House has a special grudge, or as he has put it somewhere, envy, against the officials as a class. We have asked for a salary cut, not *per se*. We have put it purely in relation to our capacity to bear the burden. We have only stated that there are two remedies for you. Here are we who have to pay the tax; we can pay reasonably only up to a certain limit; and if within that limit you are not able to pay the salaries you are now giving them, we just show you a way of cutting your coat according to the cloth. The Hon. the Finance Member treats us again to another discourse on the standard of morality which we ought to show to the servants serving under the Government in view of the great hardships which the Government servants are put to. I can only submit that our position in this matter was not in any way to mulct the Government servants. Our demand was by no means unreasonable for this reason, that to-day in our own Province, the All-India Service men under the direct control of the Government of India have been asked to give 5 per cent of their pays. I ask, is our demand unreasonable, that this cut should apply to the Provincial Services?

“ Dealing with the question of land revenue remission, it seems to me to be unnecessary to argue at any length, because we have been arguing about it, as I said once before, *ad nauseum*.

“ I shall just refer to one or two other points wherein I think it should have been possible for the Government to reduce their expenditure as well. Touching on the question of the Judicial Budget, I find that there is some provision for an increased expenditure. I do not deny, it is not a very big amount; it is comparatively a small amount; but nevertheless, when owing to the financial depression, litigation is going down everywhere and when it is within the experience

[Mr. A. T. Pannirselvam] [26th February 1934]

of everybody that the existing District Munsifs and existing Subordinate Judges have hardly any work, I really am not able to see any justification for an increase in the judicial expenditure by way of additional Munsifs and additional Subordinate Judges.

“Coming now to the Education Budget, let me refer to the Champion scheme. I believe this is a matter which will come up for detailed discussion at the time of the Education Budget, but I would only state now that the Hon. the Educational Minister has won the championship prize in one field, if he wants also to win a championship prize for creating the uttermost confusion in the field of education, he can go ahead with the Champion scheme.

“Finally, Sir, this being the annual occasion when we are privileged to say a few things not exactly pertinent to the matter under discussion, I may be permitted to point out, speaking on behalf of a minority community, that the Indian Christians have been treated, more particularly within the last few years, as the Cindrella of the Province from the highest to the lowest jobs; and even in the acutest controversies our views are always brushed aside as that of a minority which does not count for anything. Beginning with the Executive Council itself, Sir, it is well over a quarter of a century since it was made open to Indians to gain admission into the Executive Council; and during the last 25 years, though every other community has had a place in the Executive Council and though the Brahman community which numerically is not stronger than the Indian Christian community has had more than its share, the Indian Christian community has never been able to find a place in it. Turning to the Ministerial side, during the last thirteen years when we have had the Transferred Departments, except for that short period when the late Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar happened to occupy the Front Bench under the leadership of Dr. Subbarayan, an Indian Christian has never found a place within the Ministry. During the first two Ministries, it was some consolation to us, that though our community did not find a place on the Treasury Bench, the unique and the honourable position now occupied by you, Sir, was occupied by a Christian, but during this Ministry we have given no place in the Ministry. And, coming to the Secretaries, till this Ministry came into power—I do not say it is very much of a coveted job, but it is perhaps a sinecure appointment—the Christian was given some place under the three previous Ministries, while under the new Ministry, we have been discarded. Getting out of this House to the Secretariat, we have got these innumerable Under Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries and Deputy Secretaries, not one of them is an Indian Christian. Getting out into the City, in the High Court there was a time when Justice Devadoss occupied with distinction a place there. But, since then, the door of the High Court has been shut to the Indian Christians. Quite recently, Sir, the Small Cause Court was presided over by an Indian Christian and we do not know who is going to take his place. So far for the City, Sir, I am referring to these things only to show that we are also people who have given our share to the welfare of the country and our existence in the Province ought also to be taken note of by the authorities.”

26th February 1934]

* Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—“ Mr. President, Sir, after the eloquent address of the hon. Member from Tanjore and especially after his very valiant advocacy of the cause of the Indian Christians in the financial Budget, I feel diffident to speak on those matters which are very foreign, in my humble conception, to the discussion before us. The main object of allotting three days for a general discussion of the Budget is to turn the searchlight of criticism on the financial policies and principles underlying the Budget and all the discussion should be to contribute constructively and suggest anything by way of facilitating the working of the administration. It is not mere waste of time, as one hon. Member has suggested, if we remember and keep before us the objects with which this discussion is provided. Then certainly we will be called upon as responsible Members to make constructive criticisms and not merely advocate either parochial interests or communal interests. There is an occasion for the discussion of these very important subjects later on.

“ One of the hon. Members has described the Budget as being very conservative. If he means by ‘ conservative ’ that the Hon. Finance Member has truly pictured the financial condition of this Province and has proceeded with care and caution in all the things that he has done in connexion with the Budget, then he is right in saying that it is a conservative Budget; but if he meant that no provision has been made in the Budget for purposes of expansion, that no adequate provision has been made for what we are accustomed to call ‘ nation-building departments,’ then, Sir, I would like to draw his attention to the very forcible view that was expressed by Mr. Langley in regard to these departments. I am sure the House will remember that Mr. Langley characterized these departments as being now unnecessary and undesirable, that they should be maintained separately and that they should be amalgamated with others. I am sure that the Hon. Ministers in charge of these departments have very good defences to put up and that they will do so in their turn.

“ Then Sir, Mr. Langley has suggested that this Budget shows great anxiety to provide for the future Government and in their anxiety to show a balanced Budget or a prosperous Budget, they carried that intention too far. Mr. Langley’s experience with rich men seems to be very unfortunate. He thinks that if a man came by property he would fritter away the property and that he would not make good use of it. He is not confident in the honesty or in the virtue of the person that comes by the property. This shows not only a lack of knowledge, but it also shows a wrong appreciation of the financial and political situation in the country. What the Government and the Hon. the Finance Member intend to make, and very rightly too, is that they do not want to hand over to their successors an insolvent state of affairs. They want to make the position quite stable and strong so that the Government may not be blamed that they have frittered away all their finances and that they have handed a very poor purse to their successors. Moreover, Mr. Langley will remember that when the new Government is formed, it will be a Government of the people responsible

[Sir A. P. Patro]

[26th February 1934]

to this House and Mr. Langley and others will have to watch the conduct and management of the new Ministry. Therefore, there is absolutely no ground for any apprehension on the part of Mr. Langley or on the part of those belonging to the same school who think that it is wrong on the part of the Government in leaving a prosperous Budget for their successors.

“ Again, Sir, Mr. Metherell in his very excellent maiden speech questioned the policy of the Government in handing over a prosperous state of finance to the successors, because in the distribution or adjustment of the financial relations between the Provinces and the Centre, the Central Government might look upon this Government with askance and with suspicion and say, ‘ here Madras is in a prosperous state and therefore we can go back and history may be repeated in connexion with the iniquitous impost.’ I am afraid, again there is a great misconception in this matter. If the Madras Government did not show a prosperous state of affairs, it would not be recommended to the authorities in respect of the introduction of the new measure of Reforms. Surely, the Madras Government is not overflowing with money. If you scrutinize the Budget, of course there are revenue balances; but the revenue balances will show that there are large demands on them in the matter of providing funds for many projects and if these projects are taken in hand and executed there will be nothing left at all and the Government will be obliged to borrow money for the purpose of carrying on these projects. Therefore, it is not, as if, the Government are keeping in stock all these balances and that any commission or committee may look upon it with anxiety and say that the Madras Government need not be given any further contributions. This is a very wrong reading of the financial situation of this Province.

“ Again, Sir, it has been suggested that the Hon. the Finance Member ought to have given a lead in the matter of improving the revenues of this Province and that he should have shown some way by which these revenues could be improved. It has been shown that the revenue sources are inelastic and that they are not capable of further expansion. Land Revenue, Excise, Stamps, all have reached a stage from which further expansion is impossible. Therefore, it has been suggested by my hon. Friend, Mr. Raman Menon, ‘ Why not tax the agricultural incomes?’ This is an old question. The taxing of agricultural income is an old problem and it was a problem dealt with by the Taxation Enquiry Committee, wherein the question of taxing small pattadars for whom we have all been pleading so vehemently and asking Government that they should be saved from the present crisis was considered and they are the persons who would be affected by this suggestion. Therefore, the suggestion that there should be a provision made for purposes of further taxation of agricultural incomes seems to be altogether out of question.

“ Then, Sir, it has been suggested by one hon. Member, ‘ we have got the power of confiscation of certain contraband articles made in this Province, why not ask the Government of India to give it back to this Province.’ Now, these are suggestions and questions which do

26th February 1934] [Sir A. P. Patro]

not deserve a moment's consideration. These are questions relating to all-India subjects and I am sure the hon. Member was aware of this when he made that suggestion. But I think it was a sporting suggestion that he made.

"After dealing with these two constructive suggestions, I would now refer to the most important questions that have been raised and repeatedly raised, namely, the question of the remission of land revenue and the salary cut. These have been supported by every Member and I must admit that it is not so much as the sentiment of it as the feeling of it; but we must look at the question from the point of view of economics and finance. These are necessary not in the interests of all the mirasidars or big pattadars, but these are necessary in the general and economic interests of the country. There may be differences of views on the remedies proposed. The outstanding feature of agriculture is the continued low level of prices of food grains accompanied by shortage of money. In some places prices show a tendency to rise and in other places the area under wet crops increase and even above the average. We have reports to show that the wet cultivation in some places has increased and increased above the average and therefore what is the remedy. Whether substitution of a more valuable crop than paddy or whether transport facilities may be improved, whether there should be control of prices and control of foreign imports of food grains should be adopted—these are matters that should be discussed more profitably than asking the Government to remit land revenue. The question is one of economics. Under the existing conditions, as has been suggested by Mr. Langley, is it only as a palliative or a patchwork measure or will you go into the whole root of the problem. Therefore, it is necessary that we should have to conduct an investigation of these three matters, viz., substitution of a more valuable crop than paddy, improvement of transport facilities and control of prices and control of foreign imports of food grains. These are absolutely necessary in order to give an impetus to the rise of prices.

"In regard to the distress, as I said, I quite admit that in some places it is so. It has to be investigated as to what are the areas which have suffered more than in an average year. It is not in every district that there is distress, nor in every area.

"I assert this on the reports of the revenue authorities. What are the areas that have suffered more than in the average years and whether there was not a tendency in some areas for the rise of prices have to be investigated. The reports show that there has been a gradual rise of prices in certain areas now. What is the percentage of pattadars that have been actually cultivating the land? These are all relevant questions that we should discuss and investigate in order to see what should be done in order to relieve the economic distress. It is not by giving only remission this year—and I do not mind whether it is to the rich pattadar or the small pattadar—that we are going to solve the problem effectively. This giving of remission is only a temporary remedy. But you must go to the root of the matter and provide remedies substantial and effective for the purpose of getting over this difficulty.

11-45
a.m.

[Sir A. P. Patro]

[26th February 1934]

I would ask hon. Members just to go through the figures with me in regard to one or two districts in regard to their condition. As I said the other day, the total number of pattas are 104,342; of these 75 per cent are of ten rupees and less and pattas of one hundred rupees are 1 per cent. I take these figures from the reports published by the Board of Revenue. This shows that there are more rich pattadars who are more money-lenders than farmers. Again, of these 100,000 pattas and over, 36,449 are joint patta holdings owned by 130,000 shareholders. Much of the land therefore is now in the possession of the trading classes, lawyers and money-lenders. Many ryots are not the owners of the land they cultivate. Take, for instance, the district of Tanjore. The cultivators who are owners are 8.5 per cent. Please note this. In the Tanjore district the cultivating owners, that is the peasant proprietors are 8.5 per cent. Pattas less than Rs. 10 are about 10.07 per cent, and pattas over Rs. 100 are 3.09 per cent. These figures would conclusively establish that the remission that we are now asking for will not at all be useful generally to those that are actually cultivating the land, the peasant proprietors, the men who hold the plough and who are suffering. But you are asked to benefit those that do not deserve any sympathy, those that have invested their money as capitalists as every other person has done in investing money in business which is suffering all round now. That is so far as Tanjore district is concerned. Let us now take Godavari. In Godavari, the total number of holdings is 79,874. The percentage of tenants is 11.3. On the other hand, you find that the landholders are 31 per cent. The farm labourers, that is those who are working on the land are 61 per cent. Suppose you give remission to Godavari, is it going to benefit this 61 per cent? That is the point that the House has to consider carefully in dealing with remission. It is very easy to say in a sentimental way that remissions should be given, but in giving remission we have to take facts into consideration, the facts as they exist in each area and in each district and take the actual cultivators, peasant proprietors or cultivating pattadars. These have to be considered before you make a general statement that the Finance Committee was right in recommending 18 per cent and that that Government is wrong in not giving their approval to what the Finance Committee recommended, or that the Government is wrong again in not giving effect to the resolution of this House in regard to remission. But, as I said, facts have to be faced before we can come to any conclusion in the matter, namely, that these remissions, as they are, only a temporary and palliative, and that they will not benefit the whole population that actually need the help of this House. We must go to the root of the matter and try to investigate the facts about the economic condition of the actual ryot and then we must provide for his relief. That is my submission to this House. Therefore no amount of general criticism of the Budget will help us to get over the difficulty, nor any more fresh remissions from the Government.

“ Then again, Sir, there is another criticism with regard to the salary cut. . . ”

26th February 1934]

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—" I may remind the hon. Member of the time-limit."

* Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—" Thanks very much. I am closing, Sir. With regard to the salary cut, the result which the Hon. the Finance Member arrived at is quite correct. The result is there, but I do not agree with him in his reasoning. The reasoning he suggested was that there had been pledges given before, that the Under Secretary of State gave a pledge before the House of Lords, that the Finance Member gave a pledge before the Legislative Assembly, and therefore the pledges are too sacred to be violated. But may I with all respect remind the Hon. the Finance Member that even pledges made by higher authorities even by His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught in introducing the Reforms in 1921, do not seem to have been carried out yet. His Royal Highness said, on behalf of His Majesty, that India was going to get what the loyal people have asked for, Swaraj, and that India was beginning to be in a line with the Dominions. What is that now? Again, on the 30th October 1929, Lord Irwin made a pledge on behalf of the British Government and said that the natural issue of Indian Constitutional progress was the attainment of Dominion status. Now, what has become of these pledges to-day? Pledges are explained away. Therefore I say the pledge that the Hon. Member relies upon is rather a weak ground on which to arrive at conclusions. The reason seems to be that the present Government do not want to create unrest or discontent in the services so that it may not be said that there is no willingness on the part of the services to take up the new responsibilities when these instruments and agencies have to be handed over to the new Government, so that it may not be said of the Bureaucratic Government that they have made it possible for the services to be discontented so that the future Government will not be able to obtain efficient service from them. Therefore, Sir, I say that, though the reasoning is not sound, the conclusion is correct. But, after all, how does the salary cut help the Budget? The salary cut taken as a whole, calculated at 10 per cent, comes to 27 lakhs. Will that saving of 27 lakhs help to swell the Budget, relieve the distress and help in giving the remission of revenue? But as regards the help that is necessary for the nation-building departments, I would again appeal to the House to think over the arguments advanced by Mr. Langley and what he has said from his experience in regard to these departments. Therefore, Sir, I say there is absolutely no reason to think of the salary cut as it will never help us much in easing the financial conditions of the Province and it is just and proper that the cut is removed, so that there may not be opportunities or occasion for rousing the feelings of the services against the new Government that may come into existence. The Hon. the Finance Member is therefore very wise in retaining the old position, that is, retaining the old salaries without any cut."

* Mr. V. P. NARAYANAN NAMBIYAR:—" Mr. President, Sir, the Budget that has been presented to the Council this year serves but as another proof of how unwilling the Government of Madras is to deal

[Mr. V. P. Narayanan Nambiyar] [26th February 1934]

with sympathy and care matters affecting the well-being of the agriculturists. The speeches of the hon. Members who are aware of the real distress in the districts of the Province have been characterized as 'rhetorical exuberance', and suggestions, helpful suggestions, made with a view to find funds for land revenue concessions have been put down as proceeding from mere envy or from failure to reflect. Until recently there was at least some sort of dignity attached to the pronouncements and replies on behalf of the Government, but the criticisms levelled against the 'pay cut' have made the Hon. the Finance Member adopt the attitude that 'if the pistol misses fire knock down with the butt end of it.' The salary cut was suggested not out of envy, not out of failure to correctly understand the true position of Government officers, but only because the magnitude of the present difficulties of the agriculturists justified serious consideration of that question too. Dealing with the subject of 'pay cut,' the Hon. Gentleman, the Finance Member, said, 'In the first place, it is not the case that the bulk of the officials concerned are on 'fat pays'. The vast majority of them are on small pays.' May I ask, has the Hon. Gentleman really the sympathy that he professes for these low-paid officials? When the question of revision of scales of pay for services came up for consideration and when the Retrenchment Committee suggested that there need not be any reduction in the pay of officers on salaries of Rs. 25 and below, it was this self-same doughty champion who was responsible for the statement, viz., 'The Government have decided that the recommendation of the Committee not to effect any reduction in the pay of officers on Rs. 25 and below need not be accepted.' Hon. Members of this House cannot be accused of want of concern for the well-being of the low-paid officials, for they have always handled with the greatest care and sympathy the subject of the pay of those who are on poor salaries.

"However that be, the saddest portion of the Budget speech is the contention that while the figures disclose that the position of the finances is strong enough not to need or justify the reimposition of salaries cut, it cannot stand any further remission in land revenue. That contention, if I may respectfully adopt the language of a great Parliamentarian elsewhere, is but adding obstinacy to stupidity. The Hon. Gentleman, the Finance Member, attempts to justify the position with reference to land revenue concessions by saying:—

'And, leaving the agricultural voter, what shall be said of the masses of the poor whose needs are so pressing and so obvious—the landless labourer, the small shopkeeper and the rest? These gain nothing by the land revenue remission, but stand wholly to lose by a measure which can only cripple the power of the Government to aid them. Does this House owe no duty to them?'

I am inclined to exclaim 'Hear, hear' whenever I read the sentences. But minus the rhetorical exuberance therein, the sentences are but the thin end of the wedge of the divide and rule policy. When Europeans, Mussalmans, Hindus and Christians in one voice demand further land revenue concessions, the Government want to create a new set of warring elements and say that though land revenue remission

26th February 1934] [Mr. V. P. Narayanan Nambiyar]

will help the 'big man', it will tend to the disadvantage of the 'small man.'

"Another argument to negative further land revenue concessions is the earnest desire of the Government that the scheme of Provincial Autonomy should be launched under the most favourable conditions. As I said on a former occasion, this is citing scripture for a purpose. The Government have no right to safeguard the future by perpetrating an injustice to the present.

"These are the main grounds on which the Government of Madras has, in the matter of land revenue remission, exclaimed like King Canute of old, 'Thus far and no further.' But let not the Government forget that the waves did not stop at the bidding of the King and that even the mighty Canute had his feet swept.

"There is another matter about which I should like to speak, though when my hon. Friend, Mr. Pannirselvam, referred to the subject the hon. Member from Ganjom, Sir A. P. Patro, thought that it was not relevant to the occasion. The hon. Member for Ganjam had on a former occasion said that this is the time for hon. Members of this House to travel from China to Peru, and I fail to see why he now says that the subject referred to by my hon. Friend, Mr. Pannirselvam, is not relevant to the occasion. However that be, may I draw the attention of the Government to the recent great tour of Mahatma Gandhi for the cause of Harijans and say that any recognition of the claims of the Depressed Classes and the minority communities, in the selection of the personnel to the Cabinet, will only be welcomed by this House ('Hear, hear')?"

"Sir, we have been told that Provincial Autonomy is near at hand. That is indeed a matter for considerable gratification. But, no Reforms will be a success unless feuds and disputes, old and recent, are forgiven and forgotten and everyone, whether he be a non-Congressman or a Congressman, is allowed a fair field to obtain the verdict of the electors and to strive for the peace and betterment of our Province."

* Mr. C. BASU DEV:—"Sir, before I say anything, I would like to offer a word of apology to the hon. Member for the City of Madras, whom I do not see here, whose impatient ire I had occasion to provoke the other day. Fortunately for me and I am sure for several other hon. Members on this side and other sides of this House his opinion is not of much moment. I assure him that, I am not vain or presumptuous enough to imagine that, where abler and more experienced gentlemen have failed, I can convince him. Exigencies of his politics demand that no argument, however weighty and true, shall have any effect in correcting or convincing or deflecting him from his stand—a stand taken solely for the purpose of getting popular applause. (A voice: 'What applause are you getting now?') The approbation of reasonable men. So I would like to address my observations to the more reflective and generous section of the House. Before so doing, however, I would like to present to the hon. Member the speeches of Mr. Krishnayya Choudari and Mr. T. S. Ramaswami Ayyar and leave him to choose whether he would accuse them as he had done me of insincerity or give them

12
noon.

[Mr. C. Basu Dev] [26th February 1934]

any credit for the courage of their convictions. No. Coming to the Budget, I am sure I am not using the language of convention, when I say that this Province owes a debt of gratitude to the Hon. the Finance Member for the clear and honest Budget. (Voice: 'Oh!'). I am glad to hear the exclamation, for the clear and honest Budget, and for the courage and candid speech with which he presented it. Sir, there are some Members who are absolutely impervious to reason, however strong it may be and with those Members and their opinions, I do not think we need now bother ourselves with. There are some Members who honestly find it difficult to see eye to eye with the Hon. the Finance Member. But even they will not accuse him of want of sympathy or of any other unworthy motive for withholding the concession now claimed as due to the ryot. Sir, Mr. Krishnayya Choudari had given expression to certain views the other day for which he was very seriously taken to task, by Mr. Arasu on a previous occasion. Sir, Mr. Choudari is one whose stake in the land or whose knowledge of the needs of the country none can dispute and he stated that land revenue remission is not so much what the ryot wants, as more marketing and other facilities. (A voice: 'He said besides remission, he wanted those things.') I am subject to correction. But I believe, Sir, that is what he said. Mr. Arasu had used intemperate language. But extravagance of expression is the badge of his tribe and I have neither the inclination nor the time to quarrel with such men. I would like to add to the suggestions of Mr. Krishnayya Choudari one more, namely, the solution of the indebtedness of the ryot. The ryot in the hey-day of his prosperity had invested on land the little saving he had along with money borrowed on the mortgage of his holdings and land. The purchasing value of the rupee had increased while the land had fallen to a third or fourth of its original value. The ryot had to pay interest absolutely out of proportion to the yield of his land and the whole trouble is with his creditors and not with the Government. I wish to emphasize this point and say that it is more the measure of the type of the Debts Conciliation Bill given notice of by my hon. Friend, Mr. Ramalingam Chettiyar which will help the ryots than this patch work of remission. I plead for something permanent and substantial. I have listened with great attention to the speeches made by the Members opposite and on my side also. I must admit that I have not as yet found any satisfactory or adequate answer (Hear! Hear!) to the very weighty arguments of the Hon. the Finance Member. (Mr. Arasu: 'You will never find it.') I had hoped that hon. Members who knew more about agriculture would give facts and figures about the cost of cultivation and other things to prove that the ryot had to pay from his pocket. But these figures are yet to come. I am afraid time is not sufficient for me to speak on several other points. But I do say that if the Government set their hands to remove the indebtedness of the agricultural classes and to the task of finding better markets for their produce and having improved communications. When these are done, I hope the ryot will be much more happy than what he is at present. Sir, I understand that in the middle of the nineties of the last century, the price

26th February 1934] [Mr. C. Basu Dev]

of paddy was not what it is to-day. In the resettled districts there is no further justification for continuing the enhanced rates and I appeal to the Government that they should be pleased to increase remission to be equal to the recent enhancement of the assessment in the resettled districts. My Friend for the city of Madras the other day deplored that sufficient money was not given to the nation-building departments. I remember on the previous occasion when we discussed these land revenue resolution, he declaimed vehemently against the very departments and said that he would be happy if those departments are scraped. I may say that I would not shed any tear if they are scraped. Agriculture, co-operative societies, and industries are all ploughing their lonely furrows and we have not been co-ordinated their efforts, nor brought any effective scheme for improving the agriculturists. The Co-operative department has increased its societies for credit without caring for the quality of service rendered by them, and thus prepared a groundwork of corruption and misappropriation on which it is impossible to build the structure of co-operative ideal. The Agricultural department have been devoting their attention solely to growing two blades where one has been growing. They have not cared to find out fresh markets for their surplus. I wish, Sir, the Co-operative, Agriculture and Industries departments had all co-ordinated their efforts and brought about a bold scheme for the improvement of agriculture and making it a profitable and attractive avocation.

“ Sir, the regeneration of a people or of a nation could only be done by strong policies pursued with determination and courage. I am afraid, we, in this country, have been yielding too much to the clamour for popular control. Turkey, Russia, Germany and Austria are glorious examples of where democracy has failed and dictatorship has achieved miracles in national regeneration. I do not know if by yielding to democratic clamour we satisfy the true needs of the country. The history of panchayats is a history of blood and feud. I do not know if we are doing proper service to the villagers and people in this country by introducing election in these panchayat boards. I would rather suggest that there should be a system of nominations (Hear, Hear) so that there would be no election and consequential troubles and feuds. With regard to education, Sir, I am very doubtful, if the money spent on it is being properly spent. I would rather like to have the Government Department for elementary education scraped and entrusted to the villages themselves, subject to such supervision or control as the Government can or may exercise. I am sorry, Sir, I have exceeded the time limit and I would reserve my remarks to the detailed discussion of the Budget that is to follow.”

* Mr. DANIEL THOMAS:—“ Mr. President, Sir, the one question that has dominated the discussion on the Budget during the last two days and more is the question of land revenue remission. It seems to me that this question of remission of land assessment has deep implications. It is obvious that nearly 90 per cent of the non-official Members of this Council are agreed about the gravity of agricultural distress in

[Mr. Daniel Thomas] [26th February 1934]

this province and also about the extent of reduction of assessment that is necessary for tiding over the present crisis. The question is 'what is the attitude and how does the Government view the united and almost unanimous representations of the non-official Members of this Council' in this matter of reduction of land assessment. If the agreed ideas of almost 90 per cent of the non-official Members in this Council is to be brushed aside as mere clamour, I wish to know in what attitude and on what basis the Government are to carry on their administrative business. Shortly, we are promised Provincial Autonomy and in those days of impending Provincial Autonomy, the opinions and views of the Council should carry the day. I am glad that so far as the actual need for alleviation of the ryots' distress is concerned, the Hon. the Finance Member is agreed. I find that at the conclusion of his speech the Hon. the Finance Member says: 'if they have felt obliged to resist the exorbitant demands for land revenue remission that have been pressed upon them, it is not because they do not realize that the fall of prices has caused and is causing hardship to many.' I am glad, Sir, that the Hon. Member and the Government are agreed that the present condition is very badly affected. I am only sorry that in this matter, our veteran statesman, Sir Patro, is out-heroding Herod. He is even prepared to go further than the Government and say that the conditions of the present time do not call for any reduction of land assessment. His argument is that if any further concession by way of land revenue reduction is to be given, that will benefit not the person intended but the middle classes who do not cultivate the soil in our Presidency. I am extremely sorry that a veteran statesman of his position should have indulged in an observation of this sort. According to the figures which he himself furnished, over 47 per cent of the pattadars who have to pay from Rs. 10 to Rs. 100 are middle class people. It may be that the middle class people do not actually plough the soil or carry out the day to day operations connected with agriculture, but that does not mean that any reduction in land assessment will not benefit them. Surely it will benefit them and any benefit which they get will in turn also benefit the numerous persons such as labourers, traders and cultivators who depend upon them for their livelihood and maintenance. It is on a wrong basis that the Hon. the Finance Member has sought to draw a distinction between the actual cultivating classes and the others, namely, shopkeepers and so on. The important condition of our province is that the agricultural ryot is the paymaster of everybody. Whatever be the class one might come from, whatever avocation one might follow, the ultimate paymaster, the ultimate purseholder for all is the agricultural ryot. Be he a trader, or artizan or lawyer or any other professional man, everybody is in turn dependent for his prospects and remuneration on the ryot. It is therefore surprising that an argument of this sort should be seriously put forward by an experienced and veteran statesman like Sir Patro. I am really surprised that Sir Patro should argue on the floor of this House that this concession would not inure to the benefit of the people who are in actual need. It may be that the ryot who is wedded to his land, would, as a last resort, beg, borrow or steal for paying the land revenue, rather than part with the ownership of it. But it will result in a

12-15
p.m.

26th February 1934] [Mr. Daniel Thomas]

disastrous prostration of his economic stability. It is said that more concession should not be granted at the present time in view of the ultimate economic stability of this province. But it should be borne in mind that at a time of acute distress like the present, it is no use hoarding or putting off the immediate relief for safeguarding the future position. The prime need at this juncture is the grant of immediate relief to the ryot and if this relief is denied to him now, his condition will become so irrecoverably affected that any safeguarding of future economic stability would actually be of no use to him at all. It appears to me that, at a time when a patient is dying of starvation, it is no good prescribing savings for the future and allowing him to die. As it is not yet too late, I hope and trust that the Government will reconsider the position and give some more relief to the distressed ryots of our province. Sir, it is said that a huge sum would be necessary if the Government were to give concession on the basis of the resolution passed by this House some time back. Let us then take the extent to which the Finance Committee thought it necessary to give relief. The Finance Committee recommended that the Government could safely go to the extent suggested by them as it involved only an additional expenditure of some 13 lakhs. Can it be believed for one moment that the Government if they are really anxious to give relief, cannot devise ways and means for finding this sum of 13 lakhs? If we point out the way in which this sum could be found, they do not agree. Let them therefore find ways and means for making this sum required to give relief. Let them do it and give the remission recommended by the Finance Committee. I do not think the Government are devoid of sympathy to the agriculturists. We are fortunate that in the Hon. the Finance Member we have an officer who, by way of abundant caution, has presented us a Budget which gives a satisfactory financial stability as compared with the disastrous condition of other provinces in this country. But, apart from that, I would only appeal to him that, while we are thankful to him for stabilizing the finances and for taking a long view of the problem, he may give immediate relief to the hard-hit ryot who is the paymaster of everybody from the highest to the lowest in the land. I hope this question will receive the sympathetic and effective attention of the Government."

* Mr. P. MADHUSOODHANAN THANGAL :—“ Mr. President, thanks to the Hon. the Finance Member we have a surplus Budget. But as observed by many of my hon. Friends here, Government should not rest content with balancing the Budget. They should devise ways and means to lessen the misery of the ryots. Government have, in a recent Order, allowed the Collector of Malabar to receive and consider on their merits, petitions against wrong classifications of lands at the re-settlement. While thanking them for this small concession, I must say that it is quite inadequate. Unless Government accept the resolution to remit 25 per cent of the land revenue, the agricultural population in Malabar will have no salvation. The reason given by the Government against the remission of 25 per cent is that it would necessitate the re-introduction of the salary cut. Is it fair that the people of a whole province should suffer in order that a few Government servants may draw their

[Mr. P. Madhusoodhanan Thangal] [26th February 1934]

full salary? Even here, Government can introduce a graded cut exempting the poor clerk drawing a small salary and affecting only the high paid officials. With abnormal fall in the price of paddy, pepper and coconut, the poor cultivator finds it impossible to pay land revenue. Added to it, the authorities attach the movable property of the defaulter and bring it to sale. It would have helped the ryot to a very great extent if the authorities are content with selling the land for which the land revenue is due. In the order referred to by me, the Government have stated that the question of collecting land revenue from the occupant of the land rather than from the janmi is under consideration. I hope they would come to a favourable decision soon and issue the necessary orders.

"Sir, I must now refer to the question of unfair representation proposed for Malabar in the Reformed Constitution. The Nambudiris who form a minority community in Malabar and who enrich the Government by contributing a very large share of land revenue and whose claims for representation have been recognized by Government have not been allotted any seats. I would like to impress upon the Government the absolute necessity of reserving seats for Nambudiris as, otherwise, there is no possibility of any Nambudiri candidate being returned to the Council. I hope the Government would do the needful in the matter.

"Before I conclude, Sir, I must speak a few words on the probable effect in Malabar of introducing the Champion scheme of education. If the so-called 'superfluous' schools are abolished, the immediate result in Malabar will be that the education of Muslims and Depressed Classes will suffer. The education of the depressed classes is sure to suffer considerably if the labour schools are closed. Government should not only not close any labour schools now existing, but should start a few more. So far as Malabar is concerned, the Champion scheme should not come into operation immediately. With these few words I resume my seat."

* Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, however much the Hon. the Finance Member may feel gratified in having presented what he calls a Budget of equilibrium, I am afraid, this House and the vast majority of the population outside it will not share with him the feeling.

"Sir, I propose to examine the Budget that has been presented from the point of view of the agriculture, industry, labour and unemployment. But, before doing so, I would like to refer to one noticeable fact that has to be borne in mind in regard to the discussion on the revenues of this Presidency. Sir, this fact is that the income derived by the Government which is based on a voluntary or an indirect contribution by the people has shown a considerable fall from the year 1931-32 while the compulsory tax, viz., land revenue, has remained unaffected. I have only to refer hon. Members of this House, Sir, to plate 2, opposite to page 10 of the Budget Memorandum to support my contention. One inference and the only inference that can be drawn from the draft Budget that has been placed in our hands is that the economic

26th February 1934] [Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar]

situation is so depressing that it is impossible to get out of it unless some drastic measure of reform to improve the economic capacity of the people is chalked out and worked in a spirit of determination. Sir, we find that while other Governments, the world over, are engrossed in rehabilitating the economic structure of their respective countries, we, in India, have, I am afraid, been taking things too philosophically, and have not achieved much in any direction.

“I shall, for the purpose of convenience, take up the examination of the Budget, first, from the point of view of the agriculturist. Sir, for some time past, the mind of the agriculturist has been agitating over the question as to how to find money to pay the tax. Hon. Members of this House have more than once very eloquently pleaded on behalf of the agriculturist of this Province, but with not much effect. Sir, it is surprising that a few hon. Members of this House should be ignorant of the condition of the agriculturist and I propose to meet one or two arguments that have been adduced by that Knight, who said that the agriculturist will not be profited by any remission of land revenue. Sir, he said that the persons who will be benefited by larger concessions will be the middle class men, the man in commerce, the trader and the lawyer, who own land, and not the man behind the plough, namely, the real agriculturist. And he supported his argument by saying that persons in other walks of life are also suffering in like manner. I venture to think there is a fallacy in that argument. Take the case of a person who has invested his money in shares instead of in land. Shares may go down in value just as the land has gone down in value. But, I am afraid, Sir, there is not much warrant for asking the shareholders to still continue to pay out of their pocket in respect of their shares.”

Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—“As a matter of fact shareholders are never asked to pay anything more.”

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—“That is exactly the point I am trying to make out. I said that a person who has invested his money in land is now being asked to keep paying out of the pocket in respect of a bad investment on land. Surely time is ripe for agitating against this process of mulcting a person for his investments.

“My Friend, Mr. Basu Dev, betrayed a similar lack of knowledge of the real condition of the agriculturist when he spoke that no arguments had been adduced to show that the agriculturist was not in a position to pay. Indeed, Sir, it is really surprising that my friend, Mr. Basu Dev, should ask for arguments at this late stage, because facts are more eloquent than arguments. If he cared to keep in touch with the landholder or the ryot, I dare say he would not have brought forward such a reason. The real fact is that the agriculturist does not have any money to pay taxes. In support of that contention the speeches of a large number of Members of this House drawn from the agriculturist class bear testimony.

“Sir, two or three years ago we warned the Hon. the Finance Member that the condition of the agriculturist was becoming worse and

[Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar] [26th February 1934]

worse, so much so, that to-day his economic status is so low that even Government have to admit that 'the clouds' are there. But they say that the cloud is lifting, though we don't know where it has lifted. To dispel the clouds, drastic remedies will have to be applied and unless that is done there is no hope for the agriculturist. Control of prices may go some way towards that. The real solution seems to me this: Government should take power to regulate the production of produce. Steps have been taken in this direction in other countries, and so I trust, Government—both the Reserved and the Transferred sides, will take necessary steps to regulate the production of agricultural produce.

"Sir, it has been said that not only the agriculturist but all professions are passing through trying times. The economic machinery devised by scheming financiers has broken down hopelessly, and it is high time that steps are taken to set up the economic machinery on a rational basis. What steps are going to be taken in this Province towards that end by this Government, this Budget does not give, not even an inkling of it, or rather it seems that the Government do not wish to move even their little finger in the matter and have adopted an attitude of studied silence.

"Take again, the other question that is agitating, the question of rural indebtedness which is crushing and fettering the agriculturist. I do not find any provision in the Budget in this behalf. Various suggestions have been given out in other Provinces with regard to this question of rural indebtedness. One solution that has been offered is to adopt a system by which the Government would issue bonds to creditors at a reasonable rate of interest so as to relieve the agriculturist of his burden and take from the ryot the same sum in equated payments spread over a large number of years.

"Passing on to industries, I am afraid, several representatives of industries in this House have forcibly protested that nothing has been done to better their lot. We have on the statute book an Act called the State Aid to Industries Act; but I am afraid that Act has not done anything by way of help in starting or stimulating new industries. For in the peculiar position of this country nothing is possible here without Government help.

"Representing as I do the interests of Labour, I have to say this: that we see the ranks of the unemployed, more especially the educated unemployed, swelling from day to-day, and here again, nothing has been done by Government. Sir, daily we read in the papers how Governments, which have full power to control their affairs have moved speedily and actively in this matter. The Prime Minister of England is announcing from week to week how improved industrial conditions have been able to absorb more and more unemployed. It was observed that the German Government, as announced in the latest communiqué, have been able to absorb over one million people in the last two compulsory schemes. So, Sir, I would ask that the public utility works must be taken on hand, and necessary funds be provided for them on their behalf.

26th February 1934] [Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar]

“Grants to village panchayats have been restricted to one lakh as against three lakhs allotted last year. The real solution is that we must do everything to rejuvenate and revitalise the villages, and any reduction in the expenditure under this head must be deprecated.

“With regard to the vexed question of cut in salary I do not want to traverse the ground covered by hon. Members who spoke before me. They have spoken sufficiently well to explode the specious arguments brought forward by Government, and I would content myself by saying that the savings from a salary cut should be earmarked for the purpose of relieving unemployment, for the improvement of irrigation tanks, irrigation channels and such other purposes. For as Government are well aware, for a long time past the irrigation channels throughout the Presidency have been neglected; and I can quote examples of irrigation tanks and channels in my own district of North Arcot which have not been repaired properly for several years. The Mamandoor and Kaveripauk tanks, the channels taking off from the Palar and Ponnai anicuts have been choked with sand. So in these days of distress some relief should be given to the ryots.

“Finally I would appeal to hon. Members of this House to impress on the Government this: that the Budget, such as this which is based on the misery of the peasantry, does not deserve our support, and so it seems to me that the honourable course open to us is to make it plain to the Hon. the Finance Member and the Ministers, who along with the Reserved Half, constitute the Cabinet of this Province, that it will be our duty, however unpleasant it may be, to throw out the Budget in its entirety, when the time comes. Sir, with these words I resume my seat.”

* Mr. M. S. SRESHTA:—“Mr. President, Sir, the Hon. the Finance Member's attitude towards the reduction of the land-tax and towards the reduction of the cost of administration has, I am afraid, absorbed the many merits of the Budget presented by him. I may say the Budget is technically a perfect Budget, and we must congratulate the Hon. the Finance Member for presenting it, for the honesty and for the earnestness with which he has endeavoured to balance the Budget. And I think, a share of the credit must also be given to his able Secretary.

“Having said this much, I regret the Hon. the Finance Member has not given this House equal credit for its honesty and earnestness of purpose. I think he has once indicated that we have been asking for reductions in the land tax concessions with an eye on the next election.”

The Hon. Sir HOPETOUN STOKES:—“Where have I indicated that?”

Mr. M. S. SRESHTA:—“I cannot say exactly where. This is my impression.”

The Hon. Sir HOPETOUN STOKES:—“I have said nothing of the kind.”

Mr. M. S. SRESHTA:—“If the Hon. the Finance Member has not said that, I am only too willing to correct myself.”

[26th February 1934]

The Hon. Sir HOPETOUN STOKES:—"If the cap fits him, the hon. Member can as well wear it."

Mr. M. S. SRESHTA:—"I am sorry that it is not a remark which should have been made; and I do not think I have failed to give the Hon. the Finance Member full credit for that sort of sarcasm. This is only another instance of sarcasm in his speeches. He has said with reference to those who are for a salary cut that they are for it partly through envy towards those who are drawing high salaries. I hope I am not wrong in this reference; I myself am not in favour of a cut in pay. But if it is an alternative for non-reduction of land-cess, I am in favour of it. In my opinion there are methods by which you can avoid this pay-cut. The cost of administration in this Province is certainly very high; and I should like to know whether any serious attempt has been made to reduce this cost of administration."

"I wish in my short speech to state some directions in which the cost of administration can be reduced. First of all I shall deal with the question of assessment. No doubt it is a very big question. We cannot go into the main principles of land tax at the present stage. But I think it is time we made a start."

12-45
P.M.

"Now 50 per cent of the total revenue is land tax. Is it fair that such a large burden should fall on the landed proprietor? You know Sir, in other countries the bulk of the land tax is spent for local purposes by local bodies, so that the villager knows that the money paid by him is spent for his own benefit. Here the bulk of the money collected goes to the Provincial revenues and we do not know how it is spent. Money is collected from various districts and it is not equitably spent. Coming as I do from South Kanara I know that a large share of the land revenue is paid by my district. We are like the milch cow. We have to provide for the necessities of other districts. It is not proper to suggest that the whole system of land revenue is responsible for all these difficulties. Some attempt should be made to overhaul this system which is inequitable and which is antiquated and which is based perhaps on wrong theory. An attempt was once made to alter the system of land revenue and I dare say this attempt will be continued under the new constitution and that the present system will not be allowed to stand in the statute book. Meantime I should like to know how many people are in favour of not reducing the land tax. The Hon. the Finance Member said: 'You are speaking for the ryot; what about the trader.' How many traders are in favour of not reducing the land tax? As a matter of fact practically every trader owns a bit of land and there is hardly any trader who has not got some interest in land. So, everybody will be pleased if the land tax is reduced. After all, we are Members of this House and we are representatives of the people and it is our duty to state what the people feel. I think we are more in touch with the people than Hon. Members in charge of various departments and I may say that they do not know the condition of the people so much as we do. We know where the shoe pinches and let us not be misunderstood as being not honest in our demands."

26th February 1934] [Mr. M. S. Sreshta]

“ Sir, may I know how much more time I have.”

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—“ Two minutes more.”

* Mr. M. S. SRESHTA:—“ Sir, I have much to say but I will now refer only to a very few matters and conclude.

“ As I said, the Hon. the Finance Member has not tried to excuse me although I am trying to excuse him. The Hon. the Finance Member seems to be following only one principle in accordance with the traditions of his office, viz., to have a balanced Budget at any cost. Perhaps the cost will be a very heavy one; the presentation of a balanced Budget will be a great handicap to this Government, because the Central Government may demand a large contribution from us thinking that this Government is a very solvent one, although the people are not solvent.

“ Then again no attempt has been made to reduce the expenditure. There are many methods by which the expenditure may be reduced. But I do not want to go into details with regard to this question. The Hon. the Finance Member frequently states that he wants to leave a legacy to the new Constitution and in fact he is very anxious about it. So, I will ask him to have this question examined and have a committee appointed to go into the whole question of exploring new sources of taxation and also of reducing the cost of expenditure. If such a committee is appointed, I submit that the deliberations of that committee will be the best legacy that he can leave to the new Constitution.”

* A. M. AKMED MEERAN SAHIB Bahadur:—“ Mr. President, Sir, I am one of those who think that the Hon. the Finance Member deserves no congratulations for his submitting the balanced Budget. Though he is clever enough to manage to show a balanced Budget, yet his arguments and reasons are indeed unconvincing and unsustainable especially with regard to the salary cut and to the land revenue remission. Many of the hon. Members of this House have already exhausted themselves by their stirring and convincing speeches in pointing out the fallacy of the arguments advanced by the Hon. the Finance Member. I am not going to repeat the theme over and again. I am really astonished to see that the Hon. the Finance Member, even after himself admitting the existence of acute economic depression and knowing fully well the appalling conditions of the suffering ryots, is still adamant and is not inclined to budge an inch from his original attitude in the matter of the remission of land revenue.

“ I was under the impression that the practically unanimous resolution of the non-official Members of this Council demanding a remission of 25 per cent in the land revenue will be given effect to by the Government without any hesitation whatsoever, but to my great surprise I find the contrary. Now it is an accomplished fact that the Government have determined to flout the opinion of the representatives of the people. What is the attitude we should adopt further in the matter. The only course opened to us, as far as I can suggest, to impress upon the Hon. Ministers who are undoubtedly responsible to the Council that, if they are earnest and sincere to redress the grievances of the suffering ryots, they must boldly approach the Government and

[Mr. A. M. Ahmed Meeran] [26th February 1934]

make them yield to the remission of 25 per cent. I am sure that the Government will then realize the difficult position and will listen to the advice of the Ministers. If the Government are not prepared to yield to the wishes of the Ministers, I earnestly request the Ministers to submit their resignations honourably and join with us. If the Ministers are not prepared to do so, I make an earnest appeal to the hon. Members of this House, to whatever party they belong, to take a determined attitude by not supporting the Ministry and by throwing out all the demands in the Budget. This is the best and the only remedy under the circumstances. I am glad to find that the unanimity among the hon. Members which was shown in the matter of passing the resolution of the 25 per cent remission is still maintained and will be maintained till we attain our object. I hope and fervently hope that the hon. Members of this House will unhesitatingly accept my suggestion."

* MR. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR:—"Sir, in Native States they conduct the Government possibly on the same principle we are conducting here and yet the condition of the people there is markedly different from what it is here. At least in one Indian State, viz., Mysore, people are more happy and contented and love their Sovereign and the Sovereign loves them. That is a fact which nobody can contradict. Why not the Hon. Finance Member win the sympathy of the people here by similar acts of generosity, kindness, prudence and foresight which are shown to the people of the Native States. Nobody wants him to go out of the way. It is a spark of humanity that is necessary and that makes the life of the people happier. Is it difficult to show that kind of humanity? Certainly not. As a human being when all other people in this province are in a pitiable plight, and when so many people are pressing him in a thousand ways to yield to their repeated demand, is it right and is it reasonable that he should not yield to their demands? I may assure him that it is a very cruel determination on his part not to yield to their request and he cannot be so unkind. And, if he continues to be so, it will be the unkindest cut of all. Is it right on his part to adopt an attitude which in substance means this: 'I will throw away all your suggestions because I know better than you. Though you come from places where you are more in touch with the people of whom you talk, than I am, I know the condition of the people better.' That is the attitude that he adopts. Sir, I ask whether he has not seen our ryots and the difficult position in which they are placed by their inability to pay the taxes and their inability to make both ends meet. Is it not a fact that all the ryots are still suffering? Yet we feel that the rate of mortality is very much higher than what it was before! When epidemics rage, people die like flies. Is their condition in any way better now? Is it not the duty of those who are in power and authority to take into consideration their difficult position? Otherwise, sufferings similar to those in Bihar will repeat themselves in Madras. Earthquakes generally come when cruelties and sins increase, and when you do not pay any heed to the tears of the people. The thrones of kings are undermined by the tears

26th February 1934] [Mr. C. R. Parthasarathi Ayyangar]

of the poor, and the oppressed. Why not the Government take notice of that? I am very glad that the Hon. the Finance Member is always saying 'I am preparing the way for the new constitution.' If the Ministers had been trained to approach the Government in the Cabinet and they (the Ministers) feel that they are the representatives of the people, then they must make the Government realize all the difficulties of the poor landholders and other people who are unable to pay their taxes and redress their grievances and it is for this purpose that they (the Government) exist. Indian tradition has again and again taught us that the Government exists for the sake of the people and not the people for the sake of the Government. We are going to a state of affairs where the reverse is the case, viz., that the people exist for the Government. It is not at all a correct idea. It is on account of this idea that people in the West are paying a penalty and are undergoing all sorts of difficulties. Why should you wait until you reach a stage wherefrom you cannot retrace? If our Ministers want to do their duties, they must bring pressure upon the Government to make them yield to our demands. With regard to the remission of land revenue about which so much has been said, why not you open your eyes and see the condition of the poor ryots in villages?

"I need not say much about the present system of education. What steps have been taken in the cause of education for making it a living thing? What we are suffering from now is extreme methodism—I mean the extreme lifelessness of the whole state of affairs. It is a machinery into the groove of which we have got in. So, the Hon. Minister must try his best to make education as far as possible living.

"I may say, Sir, that several years ago there happened a great cataclysm and disaster in India. If the Government do not pay any heed to the sufferings of the people, such a disaster may come again and it may take any form. We do not know what form it will take. You want the earthquake of Bihar to happen here? If it comes, do not blame us. We can only say now: 'We give you timely warning and if you do not take it we are not to blame but it is only the Government that did not pay heed to our voice.' That is all what we can do and nothing else whereas, the Ministers can do a good deal. I beg of them to open their eyes and see if education cannot be bettered. Why not have a new curriculum for the B.A. course? Should not the students understand the lives of great men who lived and died for their country, nay, for all nationalities? India exists for the purpose of teaching the world that there is one nationality only in the whole world and not several nationalities. It is for that purpose that this nation lives. Why not teach the students the fundamental lesson that all religions are one? Because in this Presidency one religion gets precedence over the other and takes away all the money, there is no money left for the other religions. Now our Muhammadan friends have got their way and made religious instruction a part of the education of their children. It is a very good thing that the Muhammadans have asserted themselves. Why not the Hindus also make their religion—Hinduism—a living thing? Why not make the Hindu Religious Endowments Board, not the

1 p.m.

[Mr. C. R. Parthasarathi Ayyangar] [26th February 1934]

effete thing that it is now but a real power, a living power in the country? Now it is dead, it is worthless and it is not worth the money spent on it. Why not make it a living factor in the life of the people. If the Hon. the Chief Minister knew how to do it—I am sure he does know how to do it; he is a man of determination—he can make the Hindu Religious Endowments Board a living factor in the country; he can make that institution so powerful that every religious institution will throb with life. Unless this is done, there is no hope for the future at all.

“Coming to the co-operative movement, if villages are to be reconstructed and village life to be resuscitated, it can be done only through the co-operative movement. The agriculturist can live only under the living influence of his temple and the helping hand of the co-operative movement. If the co-operative movement is on its last legs, it is due to the absence of virility in the Ministers. They are playing ducks and drakes with the movement. If the Ministers get into touch with the villagers by means of co-operative societies, the villages can be improved and they can be made to take their rightful place in the country. You have a vast number of officials guiding the co-operative movement. Why do not they improve the religious life of the people? Why do not they improve the co-operative life of the people? Why do not they improve the agricultural life of the people? The impression that has gained ground in the country is that the Ministers are trying to do their best by improving the panchayats. Of course let them pass the necessary legislation. But what do the tahsildars and the deputy collectors do? Instead of dreaming of promotions, let them think of how best they can resuscitate village life, so that real enthusiasm may be kindled in the people. Now enthusiasm is dead. Sir, he who awakens the enthusiasm of the people, is entitled to a statue. That is what they must do, instead of being a drag on the movement that is going on now.”

Mr. P. V. RAJAGOPAL PILLAI:—“Mr. President, Sir, when the question of the amalgamation of the duties of the Labour Commissioner with those of a Member of the Board of Revenue, instead of having a separate Labour Commissioner, was under consideration, we appealed to the Government to stay their hands and we were then told that it was being done only as a temporary measure. But experience shows that this dual system is not working satisfactorily. The other day, the Labour Commissioner, at a public meeting, expressed his inability to devote sufficient time to the work of the Labour Department. The Government of Madras, in their Public Works and Labour Department letter No. 1947 L., dated 6th September 1933, have stated that the question of the appointment of a separate officer as Labour Commissioner is under the consideration of the Government. That led us to believe that the appointment would be made soon but to our great surprise, we find that no provision has been made for it in the Budget under discussion. I would, therefore, appeal to the Hon. the Home Member that, before he assumes the exalted office of the Governor

26th February 1934] [Mr. P. V. Rajagopal Pillai]

of this major Province, he will kindly see that a senior civilian is appointed as Labour Commissioner.

"Sir, education is the only panacea for the many ills of the Depressed Classes. I would, therefore, urge upon Government the necessity to open more schools specially for these classes and not to give effect to the Champion Scheme, in the case of the schools intended for the Depressed Classes.

"Sir, owing to the large reduction in the Budget provision for ameliorative work for the Depressed Classes in the years 1931-32 and 1932-33, the execution of works sketched out in each district, as a result of the inspection of villages, was not taken up. It was anticipated that sufficient amount would be included in the Budget under consideration, but the actual amount allotted does not come up to our expectations. It is hoped that sufficient funds will be made available at least in future years.

"Sir, while thanking the Government for reservation of land for assignment to Depressed Classes, I regret to observe that very large tracts remain unassigned. The reason, apparently, is that the good intentions of the Government are not sufficiently made known to the illiterate masses and the village officers and other oppressors of the Depressed Classes stand in the way. I would, therefore, request that list of lands available for assignment be hung up in conspicuous places in all villages of the various districts and facilities be afforded to the Depressed Classes to apply for and obtain assignments of land. The assignment of land to the fullest extent will also be a source of greater revenue to Government. I shall mention a few cases in which large tracts of land remain unassigned. The following are the figures:—

District.	Extent reserved.	Extent assigned.
	ACS.	ACS.
Anantapur	168,997	65,733
South Arcot	50,685	24,165
North Arcot	66,387	56,659
Bellary	88,376	50,890
Chittoor	14,602	6,641
South Kanara	30,691	3,889
Trichinopoly	28,812	7,914

These are only a few instances where considerable tracts of land still remain to be assigned.

"One word more and I am done. Sir, the Depressed Classes are very poorly represented in the services. To take only the case of appointments of non-gazetted officers under Rs. 35 a month, it is observed that out of a sanctioned strength of 54,754, the Depressed Classes number only 1,998, whereas, even according to the rule of communal representation, there should be, at least, 4,563 members of the Depressed Classes. I would, therefore, appeal to the Government to issue necessary instructions to all heads of departments to see that all the communities are properly represented in the services."

[26th February 1934]

* **MR. G. LAKSHMANA REDDI:**—"Mr. President, Sir, Mr. Stokes, the District Collector, was sympathetic, but Sir Hopetoun Stokes, the Finance Member, is not so. Perhaps, he is not in touch with the ryot to know the serious situation. I would request Mr. Stokes to go to the countryside and see the condition of the poor ryots there. I should like to give him an idea of the condition of the ryots in Anantapur, Kurnool and the neighbouring districts. The main crop of those districts is groundnut and the price of groundnut has fallen much lower than what it was last year. The price per maund is below annas 8. With such a low price for his principal produce, and a slump in the trade, how can the agriculturist get back even the working expenses? When it is difficult for him to get back his working expenses, how can he meet the Government dues? As for the other produce, the yield is poor and there is no market. I think there is a clear case made out for the Government, granting a remission of 25 per cent as voted by this House. My hon. Friend, Sir Patro, took the example of the Tanjore and the Godavari districts and pointed out that as middlemen own large acres of land there, and as the working man does not own lands, there was no case for remission. But whether one agrees with his view or not, so far as the Ceded districts are concerned at any rate, they have a different tale to tell. In the Ceded districts, middlemen do not own such large acres of lands, but the actual working man does own lands in most cases. The ryots themselves own lands and they work on their own lands. Therefore, there is a strong case for granting a remission of 25 per cent, at least, so far as the Ceded districts are concerned. This is following the recipe of hon. Sir Patro. Sir, it is a notorious fact that the Ceded districts are very poor. Large portions of Bellary and Anantapur are dry lands and therefore, they get a remission of only $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. That will not go a long way in relieving the sufferings of the ryot. There is a case for 25 per cent remission to these tracts. In the Budget estimate, out of a revenue of Rs. $16\frac{1}{2}$ crores, only Rs. $25\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs are allotted for Part II schemes, that is to say about $1/66$ th of the revenue. I am of opinion that this amount is quite insufficient. A provision of Rs. $1\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs has been made for rural water-supply and Rs. $2\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs for village communications. These sums are quite inadequate. The amounts provided this year under these two heads are only half of what were provided last year. Even last year, they were found to be very inadequate, and how can they be expected to meet the needs this year? The conditions in the rural areas, especially in the matter of water-supply and communications, are very bad, and I hope that the Government will allot much more for these purposes at least from next year.

"I want to say a word about the Tungabhadra Project. The Hon. the Finance Member has said in his speech that the ryots of the Ceded districts have been looking forward to the execution of this scheme. Certainly, Sir, they have been sighing for it. He says that the cost of the scheme is not known precisely, but that it may be put at not less than Rs. 12 crores. This enterprise, he adds, can only be financed from borrowed money and loans can only be financed

26th February 1934] [Mr. G. Lakshmana Reddi]

from current revenue. Finally, the Hon. the Finance Member says that, on account of the economic depression which has necessitated land revenue remissions, the Government may be obliged to abandon, or indefinitely postpone the taking on hand of this project. I submit, Sir, that it comes to this: the ryots of the Ceded districts, the ryots of Anantapur and Bellary, have to suffer on account of these land revenue remissions. The Hon. Mr. Stokes knows that the lands in our districts are dry lands with uncertain rains and that there is a very real necessity for the scheme. The Government have been tantalizing the ryots of the Ceded districts who have been long looking forward to the execution of this project very very keenly and anxiously. I hope, Sir, that the Government will, at least, borrow the necessary money and begin the scheme at an early date and help the long-suffering Ceded districts' ryots."

Diwan Bahadur M. GOPALASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, I join the chorus of congratulations that has been offered to the Hon. the Finance Member by certain sections of the House. From an academic point of view, I have not the slightest doubt that he richly deserves the encomiums showered on him, and I think he deserves more encomiums for the lucid manner in which he has presented the Budget. Apart from the fact that he has not been kind enough, or sympathetic enough, to view with favour the resolution of this Council on land revenue remission, I think that so far as the other parts of the Budget are concerned, it cannot be said by any Member of this House that he has not given that amount of labour and forethought that is necessary. Coming as I do from an accursed famine zone, which is periodically visited by droughts, not to say, of epidemics like plague, cholera, smallpox and malaria, I believe, Sir, and I think you will agree with me, when I say, that I did the right thing when I, as a solitary exception, stood up on the floor of the House on the very first occasion after I entered the Council and criticized the Hon. the Finance Member for having imposed a cut in the salaries of public servants. I said it was wrong, it was inequitable, it was unjust and it was certainly very unfair that the Government should have imposed cut on salaries of Government servants. Discontent is created by the imposition of the cut. I am glad that the Hon. the Finance Member has not imposed the cut this year and I think he has given much more vigorous pleas for the cut not being imposed. I was telling you—coming from a famine zone, a cursed famine zone—that I felt that public servants felt the economic depression very much when there was temporary cut in their salaries. That is the reason why I was against the cut and I said so. I still adhere to that opinion. My grievance in connexion with land revenue remission is this. I certainly agree with the various criticisms that have been offered. I think there is a very sound case made out for the remission of 25 per cent. But even if the Government chose not to give effect to remission to the extent of 25 per cent, and if they must adhere to what they have already said, I am certainly very much surprised that they should make a distinction between dry and wet lands. So far as the Ceded

1-15
p.m.

[Mr. M. Gopalaswami Mudaliyar] [26th February 1934]

districts are concerned, I may say that about 80 per cent is dry land. As has been pointed out by another hon. Member, who hails from Anantapur, it cannot be said that the land is owned by big landholders. In about 90 per cent of the cases, the landholders are themselves cultivators of the land. So far as our districts are concerned, it cannot be said that any concession given will benefit the big landholders. Therefore, I very strongly appeal to the Hon. the Finance Member that a uniform rate might be adopted both for dry and wet lands. There is another reason why I press this point; as I have been constantly informing this House, unto them that hath, more shall be given, unto them that have not, the little they have, shall be taken away. That has been the policy of the Government. As I have been telling you, we have been suffering from chronic famine and we are crying hoarse. We have been agitating for the Tungabhadra Project; our cry has almost been a cry in the wilderness. There has already been any amount of irrigation projects in the Tanjore deltas and other favourable areas. Another project has been started for the Tanjore district and it is almost finished. We have been crying for the Tungabhadra Project. We have been agitating that that project should be carried out at least in the near future. What is worse is this; because Tanjore and Godavari are vociferous, because people there are organized—they have been convening meetings, they have been waiting on deputations—that is the reason why they are given concessions; whereas we, the people of the Ceded districts, are unorganized, dumb, always patiently suffering,—because we are unorganized—, we are not given any concessions at all. According to the Press Communiqué, what we get this year is one anna; last year we got two annas; this year is worse than last year; and we are getting only one anna this year. May I, therefore, appeal to the Hon. the Finance Member to take this fact into consideration and see that he treats all the districts alike and that the concessions are uniform in the case of wet lands as well as dry lands?

“There is only one more point. I said that I am glad for the restoration of the cut in the salaries of the Government servants. I am appealing to the Hon. the Chief Minister not to yield to the temptation of local bodies who are coming forward with proposals for cut in salaries of their employees. That seems to be the cry everywhere. This cry easily appeals to everybody as the nearest and shortest cut to see that finances are balanced. I think that it is a short-sighted policy. For the reasons mentioned by the Hon. the Finance Member, I hope the Hon. the Chief Minister will resist the temptation and see that the pay of various employees under local bodies is not cut. By so doing, he will earn the gratitude and encomiums of these employees and they will be under a deep debt of obligation to him.”

* Mr. K. SINGAM AYYANGAR:—“Sir, I wish to point out that the Hon. the Finance Member has overestimated in the items of land revenue and collection of kist. The Hon. the Finance Member and the Hon. the Revenue Member have been aware of the difficulties of the ryots and of the agricultural population for the last two years. They

26th February 1934] [Mr. K. Singam Ayyangar]

seem to think that simply because the ryots and agriculturists are able to pay their taxes without any coercive measures from the Government, they are not hard hit. Collectors and the Board of Revenue may be reporting to the Government that there has been sufficient amount of cultivation this year and perhaps, on these reports the Government have been putting these high figures with regard to land revenue collection. I may point out to them straightaway that this will not be the case for the coming year. Almost all the agriculturists and the ryots have exhausted what little they possessed in cultivation. Their paying the taxes ungrudgingly should not be taken to mean that they are not in need of any further concessions at all.

“The Engineering department and the Revenue department are sitting tight over the agriculturists and the ryots. Both these departments do the very same thing. The Revenue department has got coercive measures in their hands to collect kist while the Engineering department is looking after the irrigation system. The main collectors of revenue—namely, the Revenue department—must be responsible for irrigation facilities and other things. I may suggest in this connexion that, in order to enable the Government to give relief to these ryots by way of remission, the Engineering department may be amalgamated with the Revenue department and thereby find means of retrenching the establishment of the Engineering department; then only the Revenue department will feel the necessity and responsibility for keeping irrigation works in an efficient condition before they collect kists. This retrenchment proposal can be easily given effect to by the Hon. the Finance Member for giving the remission asked for.

“Arguments have already been advanced with regard to the salaries cut and other things. Moreover, unless the economic condition of the agricultural population is sound, the object or the advantage of Part II schemes of nation-building departments will not be realized. If the agriculturist is in a bad plight, I am sure, he will not be able to reap the advantages of the activities of the nation-building departments which are intended to benefit them. I think that, at least, now the Government should give relief to the agriculturists to the extent of 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent by way of some retrenchment proposals or curtailing the expenditure.”

* Mr. A. Pl. N. V. NADIMUTHU PILLAI:—“Mr. President, Sir, I cannot join some of the hon. Members of this House who have congratulated the Hon. the Finance Member for presenting a balanced Budget. The Hon. Gentleman has balanced the Budget by feeding the ryots of their life-blood. The Budget has been framed without any consideration for well-being of the ryot population of this Province. Their wailings have not been heeded to, and nothing has been done to save them from utter ruin and destruction.

“The Hon. the Finance Member, in the course of his speech introducing his Budget, stated that the small pattadars who contribute the bulk of the land revenue, do not care for the small remissions asked for. Sir, I am sorry that the Hon. Gentleman should be so very

[Mr. A. Pl. N. V. Nadimuthu Pillai] [26th February 1934]

ignorant of the real state of affairs. I can, with a full sense of responsibility, now state on the floor of this House that this demand for remission has not originated with the big mirasidars, but with the small pattadars who pay Rs. 10 and less. They are more in need of relief than the bigger pattadars. For, the value of the rupee is greater to the small pattadar than to a big mirasidar. Besides, Sir, I have the authority of no less a personage than the hon. Member for Ganjam—I mean Sir A. P. Patro—when I say that it is the small pattadar that is more in need of relief than the bigger ones. Therefore, there is no force in the statement of the Hon. the Finance Member that the small pattadars would not appreciate any reduction in their kist demand.

“The Hon. the Finance Member, in the course of his reply to the resolution on this matter that was discussed in this House, characterized this demand for remission as a howl. I am sorry that the Hon. Gentleman should have used that word on the floor of this House. However, I should like more respectfully to point out to him that we cannot but howl when the Government chooses to bray the same old boggy of the financial equilibrium of this Province being upset. I do not want to say anything more on this unfortunate remark of the Hon. Member.

“Now I shall briefly examine the expenditure side of the Budget. The Hon. the Finance Member claims that his Budget adopts the policy of financing remunerative capital schemes from the balances. Sir, I am afraid I cannot accept this policy as the most sound one. If the Government are sure that those projects are going to be remunerative, why not they finance those schemes entirely out of loan funds? Why should they spend the savings of the present generation for the benefit of the future generation, generations yet unborn? All that I can say is that this policy is not sound finance. The savings of the present generation—I mean the balances at the disposal of the Government—ought to be spent for the benefit of those who have contributed the same—I mean the present generation. Most of the schemes which Government propose to finance from out of the revenue balances are all for the benefit of the future generation.

“Sir, the arguments advanced by the Hon. the Finance Member against the imposition of the pay-cut is not at all convincing. They are in consonance neither with economic principles, nor even with canons of logic. The Hon. Gentleman assumes that the financial position of this Province is quite sound and do not warrant any cut in the pay of Government servants. When he comes to the remission of land revenue, he says that the financial position of this Province is bad and therefore no remission ought to be given. Is this logic, I ask? Is it sound finance to say that our financial position is quite all right, when we know that it has been brought about by coercing the ryot to shed his last drop of blood?

“Sir, I shall now make a few remarks regarding certain acts of omission on the part of the Government. Year after year, we, of the Tanjore district, have been pressing on Government the need for giving effect to the recommendations of the Cauvery Committee. I am afraid

26th February 1934] [Mr. A. Pl. N. V. Nadimuthu Pillai]

those representations have fallen on deaf ears. I appeal to Government once again to take immediately on hand at least some of the important recommendations and undertake the necessary works. Any money that is going to be spent on those works is bound to bring in a return to Government. They are bound to be productive of revenue.

"The next serious act of omission on the part of Government is to render any effective relief to the cyclone affected areas of this Presidency. It is well known that, as a result of the severe cyclone that visited us in December last, portions of the Tanjore and South Arcot districts have been affected to a degree unprecedented in this part of our Province. Several thousands of cattle and several human lives were lost, and dwellings rendered bare of their roofings. For several days, people of those areas were starving. I am sorry that Government have not done anything to relieve the misery of the people in those areas besides giving a few thousands of rupees. Relief on a large scale is very urgent and I request the Government to allot at least ten lakhs of rupees from out of the Famine Relief Fund for this purpose. It should be pointed out that rules do not permit of the Famine Relief Fund being spent for such purposes. The conditions, prevailing in those areas, is worse than famine conditions, and if the Famine Relief Fund is not to be spent for such purposes, no such fund need be set apart at all.

"I cannot close better than by making a fresh appeal to Government to revise their opinion and to remit 25 per cent of the kist for the coming fasli."

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—"With regard to the Madras Local Boards Act and the Madras Elementary Education Act Amending Bill that is coming up for discussion to-morrow, I wish to suggest that any amendments to the said Bill might be given notice of without delay. To avoid confusion and to facilitate timely circulation of the amendments to Members, I hope that no amendments except agreed amendments will be given notice of after 4 p.m. to-day."

The House will now adjourn and meet at 3 p.m.

After Lunch (3 p.m.)

* The Hon. Sir MAHOMED USMAN:—"Mr. President, Sir, there have not been many criticisms on the department in my charge, and I would, therefore, not give an elaborate reply but refer briefly to the various points raised by the hon. Members of this House.

"My hon. Friend, Mr. Basheer Ahmed, doubted the usefulness of these general discussions and thought that we might altogether abolish these general discussions and add these three days to the detailed discussions of the Budget. Sir, I think, on the whole, these general discussions are not altogether useless. They are useful in this way: many hon. Members of the House get an opportunity of speaking on subjects which are uppermost in their minds and they have an opportunity to survey, as has been said, the administration of the Government

[Sir Mahomed Usman] [26th February 1934]

of Madras from China to Peru. I may say, Sir, that during these three days, as many as 53 hon. Members had the opportunity of speaking. Their remarks receive our earnest attention and notes are being taken and the members of this side try to give replies to the various points raised by hon. Members of the House. Anyhow, Sir, I do not think it is right that we should now try to make any change in the system. It is a matter that will have to be taken up when the Reformed Council comes into existence.

“ My hon. Friend, Mr. Subrahmanya Bhatt, complained about the policy of issuing gun licences in the South Kanara district. In connexion with a question that he has asked, I have called for a report; but I may say, from the file before me, I see that only very few licences have been cancelled and that new licences continue to be granted when there is a real need. I do not think there is any real grievance in this matter; but anyhow, I have called for a report. When the report comes before me, I shall look into the matter.

“ The next question that has been raised by my hon. Friends, the representatives of the Depressed Classes, is that of the revival of the whole-time post of the Commissioner of Labour. Sir, hon. Members of this House know the history of this question—how the work of the Commissioner of Labour came to be looked after by a Member of the Board of Revenue, as a result of the retrenchment scheme proposed by the Retrenchment Committee about two years ago. I know my hon. Friends of the Depressed Classes feel keenly that this post should be restored. I may say for the information of the House that the question is now engaging the attention of the Government and the feelings and sentiments expressed by the hon. Members of the Depressed Classes and the arguments advanced by them will be borne in mind in solving this question.

“ Some of my friends of the Depressed Classes again deplored the fact that we have not made a more liberal provision for ameliorative work. Sir, I find that the expenditure for the past few years on the construction of wells, pathways, etc., for the Depressed Classes is as below:—

	RS.
1931-32 	1,40,000
1932-33 	1,48,000
1933-34 (Revised estimate) 	2,25,000
1934-35 (Budget) 	1,79,800

It will be seen from the figures that the provision for next year is greater than the expenditure in the years 1931-32 and 1932-33, but less than in the year 1933-34. All I have to say is that we could not do better on account of the financial stringency.

“ My hon. Friend, Mr. Devadasan, wanted to know the number of labour schools that we propose to open in the coming year. I find, Sir, that sixty new schools are proposed to be opened in 1934-35.

26th February 1934] [Sir Mahomed Usman]

Though the number is small, it is higher than the number of schools actually opened in 1931-32 and 1932-33 when 15 schools and 6 schools were opened respectively. Again, Sir, it is on account of financial stringency that we are not able to open more schools.

"Another member of the Depressed Classes wanted to know the reason why we reduced the provision for the Paddison Hostel. I may say, Sir, that it is proposed to give effect from the year 1934-35 to a scheme under which students who have been inmates of the Paddison Hostel and are considered fit to proceed to studies beyond high school stage will be admitted at Government cost into the ordinary hostels attached to the colleges. It is expected that there would be ten students of the hostel studying in the colleges next year who can be admitted into the respective college hostels. The present cost of boarding these students in the Paddison Hostel is estimated at Rs. 2,000 and this amount has been deducted from the provision made for the hostel next year, and the charges on account of their boarding in the respective college hostels which is estimated at Rs. 3,000 is shown under Depressed Classes (Education).

"My hon. Friend, Mr. Jagannatham, wanted that the policy of the Labour department should be the moral and material advancement of the Depressed Classes and stated that we should give them more education and provide them with more appointments. I may say, Sir, it is also the policy of the Government. Ever since this department was brought into existence, we have been following this policy, and I may say that it is yielding good results.

"My hon. Friend, Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti, wanted to know whether there will be general elections this year, and why no provision has been made in the budget for the purpose. I am not in a position to say anything at present, but I may give this assurance that the suggestion made by the hon. Member will be considered.

"Again, Sir, my hon. Friend, Mr. Venkatachalam Chetti, referred to a remark made by my Hon. Colleague, the Finance Member, that 'conditions of tranquillity prevail in this Province,' and wanted to know why it was that we did not reduce the expenditure in the Police department. He said that we should have reduced our expenditure under this head by about half a crore. I do not think my hon. Friend was very serious, when he made that suggestion. It is really unthinkable; it is impossible to make such a reduction in the expenditure of the Police department. On the other hand, I entirely agree with the remarks of my hon. Friend, the Raja of Parlakimedi, who deplored that on account of retrenchment, the Police department could not be made more useful to the public. (Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti: 'Then why not increase the Police grant?') Yes, when the Government feel convinced that we shall have to increase the expenditure, we shall not hesitate to do so. My friend, the Raja of Parlakimedi, rightly drew the attention of the Government to the fact that more police should be employed for attending to the work of regulating motor vehicle traffic not only in the big cities but also in the smaller towns. I think that

[Sir Mahomed Usman] [26th February 1934]

will be a problem which the Government will be called upon to consider when the financial conditions improve; and certainly we shall then consider the suggestion made by my hon. Friend, the Raja of Parlakimedi. I may also say, Sir, that nobody deplores more than the Government do that, on account of the retrenchment policy adopted by us, the retrenchments effected have not been in any way to the advantage of this department. Referring to the Government Order that was passed on the Administration Report of this department for the year 1932, I may say that the Government state there that—

‘stringent retrenchment resulted in a decrease in the total cost of the department of over 8 lakhs; but this was not achieved without sacrifice.’

Therefore, what I want to say is that the suggestion of my hon. Friend, Mr. Venkatachalam Chetti, is unthinkable, because the Police force must be maintained in the most efficient condition to meet any situation or emergency. (Hear, hear.) In spite of the retrenchment that has been made, I am glad to say that the Police force is being maintained in the most efficient condition, thanks to the zeal and energy displayed by the head of that department.”

* The Hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NATAR:—“Sir, I shall not occupy the Council for more than a few minutes; for, during the course of the general discussion, there have been very few remarks concerning the departments which are entrusted to my care.

“My friend, Mr. Ramalingam Chettiyar, referred in his speech to the need for maintaining the Forest College at Coimbatore. His reference to that college was very brief, but . . . (Rao Bahadur T. A. Ramalingam Chettiyar: ‘But you may give a long reply.’) In the course of his very brief remarks relating to this college, he suggested that there was no need for continuing the existence of this college. My friend as well as myself and the other Members of this Council are aware that this college is intended for the training of rangers to be employed in the Forest department. The Forest department is a technical department; and so long as that department is being maintained, it is necessary to train rangers to be employed in the department. We do not think of abolishing the Engineering College or the Medical College or for the matter of that, even the Arts colleges which are being maintained by the Government, because these colleges are expensive. These colleges are necessary and therefore, whether they are expensive or not, they have to be maintained. So also, it is essential that the Forest College at Coimbatore should be maintained for the purpose of training rangers for the Forest department. I can also tell my friend, Mr. Ramalingam Chettiyar—I do not know whether he is aware of it already—that there is only one other college in India, at Dehra Dun, for the training of rangers. That college is under the control of the Government of India and the Government of India have temporarily closed it. It is suspended now, so to speak, and we have no idea as to whether the Government of India intend reopening that college. This is another reason why this college at Coimbatore should continue to be maintained. I may add that there were suggestions like this, probably from my friend

26th February 1934] [Sir M. Krishnan Nayar]

and from others, and consequently the Government recently, within the last two years, went into this question very carefully and came to the conclusion that it was essential that this college should be maintained.

“ Then my hon. Friend, Mr. Bhatt, referred to the special grievances regarding the forests in the South Kanara district. In answer to one of the interpellations in this Council, I told him that on receipt of certain representations from the ryots and landholders' associations, the question was being considered. My friend stated that there was no co-operation between the Revenue department and the Forest department. My hon. Friend is not correct in that statement. Recently, the Collector of the district, the Conservator of Forests and the District Forest Officer went to the different parts of the reserved forests and inspected them and they also had conferences with the ryots in various places. The Government have called for a report of their inspection and, on receipt of that report, the Government will go into the question further and then pass such orders as may be possible. 3-15 p.m.

“ Then, my friend, Mr. M. B. Rangaswami Reddi—I do not see him here—in his Tamil speech referred to the question of the supply of buttermilk in jails. He said that, though representations were made on different occasions in this Council for the supply of buttermilk to the prisoners, the Government have not paid attention to those representations. I may assure my hon. Friend, Mr. Rangaswami Reddi, that the representations made in this Council regarding the supply of buttermilk to prisoners were carefully considered by the Government. The Government have recently come to the conclusion that it is not necessary to supply buttermilk to these prisoners. The most important reason for this conclusion is that these representations were made only in the interests of civil disobedience prisoners. (A voice from the Opposition Benches: ‘ No. ’) I differ from my hon. Friend. As a matter of fact, prisoners have existed in our jails for very many years and it is only quite recently, within the last two years or so, after the civil disobedience prisoners began to come to our jails, that this request was made. And, as I said the other day, the number of civil disobedience prisoners has now considerably fallen. For instance, at the end of January last, the number of civil disobedience prisoners, I believe, was only about 106 and out of this 106, several are A class and B class prisoners. It is well known that A and B class prisoners are supplied not only with buttermilk but even with curds. Thus this question of buttermilk applies only to C class civil disobedience prisoners and the number of C class civil disobedience prisoners must be now below 106.”

Mr. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHAUDARI:—“ Will they at least give it for medicinal purposes? ”

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—“ As for medicinal purposes, I may tell my friend that not only buttermilk, but anything that is ordered by the medical officer is given to these prisoners. There is no question of cost and there is no question as to whether there is any need from the layman's point of view for the particular article demanded. It all depends on the prescription and

[Sir M. Krishnan Nayar] [26th February 1934]

direction of the medical officer. I may also tell my friend that those prisoners who are suffering from any disease in any jail whatever are sent to the hospital in that particular jail and the hospital is in charge of a medical officer and whatever that medical officer orders for the patient is given."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Anything that the patient wants is given?"

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"The patient may want many things which he considers necessary but which are really objectionable.

"Then my Friend, Mr. Ramalingam Chetti, in the course of his remarks referred to the publication of his Bill, 'Debt Conciliation Bill' under rule 18 of the Madras Legislative Council Rules. I may tell him that the question is being examined and Government will come to a conclusion very soon.

"Then my friend, Mr. Pannirselvam, stated that there was an increase in the number of courts, though he admitted that the increase was very small and that, in his opinion, there was no need for this increase. With reference to this, I may tell my friend particularly and the Council generally, that the High Court is the constitutional adviser of the Government in matters like this. With a sense of responsibility that rests upon them, the High Court carefully go into the figures which make it necessary to establish these additional courts and it is after a careful examination of these figures that the High Court make their recommendation to the Government for the establishment of these temporary courts. Evidently, my friend referred to the establishment of temporary Munsifs' courts and temporary Sub-Courts. On receipt of recommendation from the High Court, the departments in the Secretariat, the Administrative department as well as the Finance Department, go again into the facts and figures carefully regarding the number of institutions in courts, the number of disposals that have been effected by them and the number of suits pending, and then comparing these with the standard fixed for the disposal of suits, come to their own conclusion regarding the necessity or otherwise of accepting the recommendation of the High Court. And then, the Government again carefully go into the question and ultimately come to the conclusion, whether it is necessary to adopt the recommendation or not. With reference, for instance, to the recommendation of the High Court for the year 1934-35, which was for the establishment of nine additional courts, the Government thought it necessary to establish only seven courts. I refer to these instances for the purpose of showing that neither the High Court nor the Government light-heartedly recommend or sanction the establishment of these additional courts. I may also tell my friend, Mr. Pannirselvam, that though in some years some courts are thus temporarily established, those courts which were in existence in the previous years temporarily are sometimes abolished. For instance, in the year 1932, two new courts were established and five courts which were in existence as temporary courts were abolished. So

20th February 1934] [Sir M. Krishnan Nayar]

also, in 1933, two District Munsifs' Courts were established and five courts were abolished. Thus, whenever the High Court make a recommendation, the Government carefully consider the figures and come to their own conclusion regarding the necessity or otherwise of establishing these courts.

“As I stated in the beginning, there have been very few references to the departments which are specially under my control and I have replied to them.”

* The Hon. Sir ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL:—“Mr. President, Sir, hon. Members raised a number of points relating to the subjects included in my portfolio and I shall deal with as many of them as I possibly can and as fully as I can in the time at my disposal, but I believe hon. Members will have further opportunities of asking further questions and of eliciting more information, if I do not give them all they require at the present time.

“Mr. Ramalingam Chettiyar pressed for more retrenchment in the Secretariat. He said that there was unnecessary noting in the Madras Secretariat and that the expenditure there was more extravagant than that of any other Government and that retrenchment in the Secretariat was not considered by the Retrenchment Committee or by anybody else. I believe my hon. Friend is incorrect in thinking that the clerks and Superintendents do not write notes in the Government of India Secretariat. The question of the reduction of work in the Secretariat and of the staff employed in it has received most careful consideration both by the Government and by the Retrenchment Committee. I find from the Budget Estimates for 1933-34, the Madras Secretariat costs altogether 14½ lakhs a year, whereas the Bengal Secretariat costs 16 lakhs and the Bombay Secretariat nearly 17¼ lakhs. The proposals of the Retrenchment Committee led to reductions in our Secretariat to the value of a quarter of a lakh a year.

“Subadar-Major Nanjappa complained that the men of the disbanded Madras Regiments have not been given civil employment and that the orders of the Government on this subject have not been obeyed; and that these men cannot get land, or, if they are given land, it is useless. As the House is aware, the Government have from time to time reiterated their orders on this subject and have directed that, whenever an application for employment from an ex-army man is rejected, the reasons for such rejection shall be reported to the Chief Secretary. I have caused inquiries to be made into many particular cases which have been brought to my notice and shall be glad to order similar enquiries of such cases in future, if brought to my notice; we are considering whether any further instructions are necessary to ensure that the orders of Government are carried out.

“Mr. Devadasan referred to the assignment of lands to the members of the Depressed Classes. I find that up to 31st March 1932—the latest date for which I have been able to obtain figures—the extent of land assigned to the Depressed Classes in the Presidency as a whole is over

[Sir Archibald Campbell] [26th February 1934]

340,000 acres; in the Tinnevely district 4,646 acres have been assigned out of 9,257 acres reserved for assignment to members of the Depressed Classes. Considerable progress has, therefore, been made in this matter. Mr. Devadasan also complained that the land after assignment passes somehow or other into the hands of members of other classes. That is prohibited by the terms of the assignment and the remedy for it lies in the hands of the members of the Depressed Classes themselves.

“ Mr. T. M. Narayanaswami Pillai stated that the concessional rate of interest was 4 per cent on loans granted to Land Reclamation Societies and asked whether it could not be extended beyond the date of its expiry. The concessional rate has not continued till 1934 as the hon. Member appeared to think it does, but it was terminated in 1931, as the grant of loans to individuals ceased as early as April 1925 and it was thought inequitable that reclamation societies should get loans at concessional rates, when other persons equally in need had to pay higher rates. In 1933, the question of a concessional rate of interest was considered by the Government at the request of the District Agricultural Association of Trichinopoly and the Government considered that there were no good grounds for reviving the concession.

“ Some speakers pleaded for the grant of adequate loans to agriculturists. I find, Sir, that during the last few years the following are the total amounts of loans, granted under the ordinary rules: In 1930-31, 14 $\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs; in 1931-32, 13.36 lakhs; in 1932-33, 11 lakhs.

3-30
p.m.

“ The provision in the Budget Estimates for the current year was 13.4 lakhs but that in the revised estimate for the current year is only 11 lakhs. The provision in the Budget Estimates for the next year is 11 lakhs. The amount has been reduced, but out of the provision 13.40 lakhs in the Budget for the current year, the Board of Revenue has now surrendered a sum of 5.40 lakhs. One of the reasons for the surrender of such a large amount is stated by the Board to be the paucity of applications in most districts, on account of the economic depression and the fall in the price of land and agricultural produce. This shows, therefore, that the Government are doing more than is required by the people in this respect.

“ Mr. K. P. Raman Menon proposed the total abolition of the Settlement Department as a means of reducing expenditure. We have recently made an important change in our settlement policy and in future, the Settlement staff should confine its attention to such operations as are necessary for the periodical revision of the assessment and should no longer be required to clear up arrears which have accumulated in the Revenue Department and to bring the Revenue accounts up to date. We have already reduced the number of Settlement parties from four costing 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs a year to three costing 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ lakhs a year, and under the revised system, we hope to reduce the annual cost of settlement parties to 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ lakhs. We shall, however, have to strengthen the Land Records staff for the maintenance of the Revenue records up to date, and it has recently been suggested that this work should be entrusted

26th February 1934] [Sir Archibald Campbell]

to the two survey parties now working. These proposals are under consideration. Apart from this work of bringing the records up to date, it is expected that after 31st March 1935, there will be no field work for survey parties in ryotwari areas.

“ Mr. Nadimuthu Pillai suggested that special relief should be given to the area affected by the cyclone in the South Arcot and Tanjore districts. This is a matter which, of course, is outside the general relief given on account of the fall in prices; a report on this subject has just been received from the Board of Revenue and will receive the very early consideration of the Government.

“ Mr. Kesavaramamurti Nayudu referred to the erosion of lankas and the damage caused to crops thereon by floods in the Godavari river. If the izaradars of the lankas to whom his remarks refer will apply to the Collector concerned, I am sure he will consider very carefully whether he should recommend the grant of any remissions. In fasli 1340, the remissions granted in respect of lanka lands in the Godavari district amounted to Rs. 96,000. In the following fasli, we granted remissions amounting to Rs. 61,000, and in fasli 1342, we granted remissions aggregating to Rs. 13,000. It is not possible, however, for the Government to make any promises unless and until reports are received from the Collectors as the rents on lankas are usually fixed by public auction and remissions of these rents are not provided for in our rules but require special justification.

“ Several speakers have stated that greater concessions in respect of land revenue have been given in other Provinces. It is difficult to compare the conditions in different Provinces, as the land revenue systems and other considerations differ so widely. We are, however, in touch with other Provincial Governments on this subject, and, so far as we have been able to ascertain, we find that for last fasli some Provinces have given no concessions in land revenue on account of the fall in prices, e.g., Bengal, Bihar and Orissa and the Central Provinces. We have not yet received information regarding this fasli from Bengal and Bihar and Orissa. In Bombay which was referred to by several speakers as comparing favourably with Madras, the concessions announced, namely, suspensions of from $12\frac{1}{2}$ to 25 per cent of the land revenue are not solely on account of the fall in prices. They take into account the outturn and therefore, they may include also seasonal suspensions. So far as information has been obtained in other Provinces, this fasli's concessions do not exceed those given in the same Province in the previous year. In Madras, we have nearly doubled the concessions given last year.

“ Mr. Narayanaswami Pillai pointed out that the concession granted now was less than that of last year and asked why the proposal to suspend $18\frac{3}{4}$ per cent the demand on wet lands was not accepted. It is true that by the lowering of the concession on dry lands from $12\frac{1}{2}$ to $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent on the recommendation of the Finance Committee, some districts got 6.23 lakhs less than they would have got if last year's concessions had been repeated. As I have pointed out before, last year

[Sir Archibald Campbell] [26th February 1934]

we had to make our proposals very hurriedly, and this year we have been able to give more consideration to the question, and it was decided finally that such a large concession is not necessary in respect of these dry lands. These districts have, however, got a $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent suspension on the water-cesses this fasli which they did not get last fasli. This nearly makes up for reduction on account of the lowering of the rate of suspension of the demand on dry lands as the following figures show: In fasli 1343, if last year's concessions have been repeated, the total concessions would amount to 37.43 lakhs. As it is, the concessions granted this year for these districts amount in all to 36.64 lakhs including, of course, the concession in respect of water-rate. The districts of West Godavari, East Godavari and Kistna have gained because the increment remission has really ceased to exist in fasli 1343 and the concession on the gross demand is higher than the increment remission. Tanjore gains a little because the extent of dry lands is small and the reduction on dry lands has been made up by the concession on water-rates. All the other districts lose because the reduction on dry lands has not been made up in them by the addition of the concession in respect of water-rates; but the resettled districts gained 23.09 lakhs altogether on this account. The reduction of the concession is due to the reduction of the rate of suspension on dry lands as recommended by the Finance Committee. This has nothing to do with the $18\frac{3}{4}$ per cent concession recommended for wet lands in resettled districts.

"I am glad to observe, Sir, that hon. Members of the House realize that the remission of land revenue is not a complete cure for the effects of the economic depression; and are pressing for other measures—measures which indeed may to some extent be incompatible with further reduction of taxation.

"Mr. Langley and my hon. Friend, Mr. Patro, also, I think, have put forward the view that the remission of land revenue is only a palliative; it is in the nature of a sedative but is not a cure for the present troubles which are indeed deep-seated. While listening to Mr. Langley's speech, one has reminded of President Roosevelt's remark in his inaugural address, though I do not think Mr. Langley quoted it. 'The nation is asking for action and action now.'

"Unfortunately, as has been recognized, it is not within the power of this Government to take all the action necessary. The principal causes for the economic depression exist outside the Province, and the permanent remedies in like manner must be sought elsewhere. What is needed, however, is the co-operation of all concerned, in this matter—of the Governments of foreign countries as well as England and India and the Provinces and of the people—in finding and carrying out measures for the amelioration of the conditions now prevailing throughout the civilized world. Hon. Members, however, are right in demanding that the Madras Government should do all that they can to remedy the situation, and should keep the Government of India informed of the situation and should suggest such measures as it may be in the power of that Government to take.

26th February 1934] [Sir Archibald Campbell]

“ I would, however, deprecate in this connexion attempts made by some hon. Members to sow discord between the ‘ Reserved ’ and ‘ Transferred ’ halves of the Government and to suggest that the Ministers should exercise a closer control over the Members of the Executive Council. Under the present constitution, the Members and the Ministers do not interfere in the details of administration carried on by the other half of the Government except in so far as any details which may affect both Reserved and Transferred subjects or advice may be sought by one from the other. The economic situation does affect both parts of the Government, and it is essential that all the Members of the Government should work together in whole-hearted co-operation, if permanent remedies are to be found for the present situation. It is true that the duty of watching the economic condition of the people is laid upon me in the distribution of business among the Members of Government. I do not, however, propose to deal with the question of the improvement of marketing facilities, as this is a matter which falls within the purview of my Hon. Colleague, the Minister, though I agree that measures which will enable the cultivator to get into close touch with markets, to realize more of the price, which his produce ultimately fetches, will be beneficial to him. In like manner, such matters as the substitution of other crops for paddy, the reduction of railway freights, the imposition of customs duties on imported rice, and the removal or reduction of the duties imposed by the Government of His Exalted Highness the Nizam of Hyderabad, do not fall within my purview, although they may affect the economic condition of the people.

“ Now, Sir, a reduction in taxation involves a reduction in the capacity of the Government to spend money on works which may be beneficial to the people. It is well known that when a Government spends large sums on works in any locality, the prices in that locality tend to rise and more money is set in circulation in that neighbourhood, and there is more employment there; the converse is equally true; if Government materially reduce their expenditure on works, their action tends to depress prices and to increase unemployment. Further, the works themselves may be of greater permanent benefit to the people than the relief afforded by a reduction of taxation. A simple case is now under consideration—whether it is better for the people to re-impose tolls on vehicles other than motor vehicles, and use the proceeds in improving roads and bridges or to leave things as they are with roads deteriorating and bridges unbuilt.

“ I hoped during my time as Member of Council to be able to carry out certain measures for the amelioration of the conditions of the people in the Province; for example, the facilitation of the development of the agency tracts in the north by improving communications and by checking the prevalence of malaria in the more populous centres, the improvement of irrigation and drainage facilities in the Godavari and Kistna deltas, the investigation of the Tungabhadra and the Bhavani projects, the completion of the Mettur, Polavaram Island and Kattalai projects, the improvement of the drainage of the delta of the Cauvery river in

[Sir Archibald Campbells] [26th February 1934]

Trichinopoly and Tanjore districts, the improvement of irrigation facilities in the Tinnevely district, and protection from floods by the Tambraparni river, the completion of the Tank Restoration Scheme, and generally the maintenance of our irrigation works, major and minor, in a state of efficiency. I think hon. Members will agree that all these are beneficial to the country and especially to the agriculturists.

“ I agree with Mr. Langley that good communications are of great benefit to the ryot. I had a striking example of that fact when I became Collector of Kistna. There was then no metalled road in one taluk in the irrigated delta, namely, Kaikalur, but, if I remember right, the district board had provided in its budget for the construction of 200 yards of metalled road from the Tahsildar's house to his office. The paddy had to be transported to the nearest navigable canal over country tracks which were a morass in the irrigation season and deep hard ruts in the dry season. The cost of transport was great and the ryots were correspondingly impoverished. Now I am glad to say there are both a metalled road and a railway through that taluk and the condition of the people is much improved. Roads, however, are in the care of my Hon. Colleagues, the Ministers, except so far as the Agencies are concerned, and I know they are anxiously considering the best means to improve and extend them. I have not been able in consequence of financial stringency to do much to carry on the programme and policy adopted some years ago, as regards the development of the agency, but we spent on agency roads 3½ lakhs last year, 5 lakhs in 1931-32 and 6¾ lakhs in 1930-31; we could, however, put in hand no new work in the two years 1931 to 1933. One new work has been proposed for this year and two new works for next year.

3-45
p.m.

“ Mr. Kesavaramamurti referred to certain schemes in the Godavari district. The Polavaram Island project has been completed except for a portion of the flood bank; the work will probably be finished in 1935-36. The question of making a temporary reduction in the rate of water-cess is under the consideration of the Government and orders will be issued shortly. The Coringa Island project which is estimated to cost 9½ lakhs of rupees is now under the consideration of the Irrigation Development Board. The Budget estimates of next year which are now before this House include a provision of 1¼ lakhs for the purchase of a dredger to work in the Godavari at Dowlaishweram and deal with shoals.

“ Mr. Peddi Raju asked for further time for the consideration of certain draft rules relating to the irrigation of double crop lands in the Godavari Western Delta as the notice was too short and I shall be glad to accede to his request. Before the introduction of the enhanced rates of assessment in Kistna and Godavari, I toured in those districts and consulted the ryots personally as to whether they would prefer to have certain works carried out and their rates of assessment enhanced or to do without the works, if the rates of assessment were not raised; the ryots were practically unanimous in preferring the former course and do not appear so far to have regretted their choice.

26th February 1934] [Sir Archibald Campbell]

All the works of irrigation and drainage, which we promised to carry out, are either under execution or in an advanced stage of investigation; in the circumstances in which these works are being carried out, they will throw no extra burden on the rest of the Presidency. A comprehensive scheme expected to cost about 35 lakhs for the extension of irrigation of an area of 90,000 acres under the Dowlaishweram anicut in the Godavari river is now under the consideration of the Irrigation Development Board. It provides for the installation of three foot shutters on the Dowlaishweram anicut with machinery for lifting them, the remodelling of channels and the improvement of drainage channels. The delimitation of the ultimate ayacut of the preparation of revised ayacut registers and maps in the Godavari districts is being dealt with by a special staff. The Vijjeswaram head sluice has been improved at a cost of $1\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs. The conversion of the Duvva bridge in the West Godavari district into a regulator and the construction of a regulator at the head of Venkayya Weyyeru canal will, I hope, be finished in a few months; I have recently inspected them myself. These will materially improve the drainage of a large area in the West Godavari delta. Other useful works have also been carried out.

"In the Kistna district, the excavation of the Vempad channel has been nearly completed at a cost of a lakh of rupees and two important schemes have now been sanctioned and begun, namely, the improvement of the Peddalanka channel in the Kaikalur taluk and the East Bank Canal Scheme including the supply of Kistna water to Divi Island by direct flow from Bezwada by means of an aqueduct over the Puligedda branch of the Kistna for irrigation in the Divi Island, instead of by pumping from the Religedda branch; the estimate for these two schemes are $4\frac{1}{4}$ lakhs and $28\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs respectively. These three schemes will provide for an extension of irrigation of nearly an area of 60,000 acres.

"In the Kistna Western Delta, two important schemes are under the consideration of the Irrigation Development Board, namely, the Kistna High Level Channel and the Appapuram canal costing $6\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs and $10\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs respectively; there are also certain other minor schemes for improving the drainage under this delta which are under execution or investigation.

"The Tungabhadra and Bhavani projects are still under investigation mainly as schemes for the irrigation of dry crops and some time must, I fear, elapse before they will be ready for execution.

"The Mettur and Kattalai schemes are nearing completion and considerable amount of work had been done and more will be done when funds permit to mitigate the effect of floods in the Tanjore delta. It has to be recognized that the system which the British Raj inherited here from previous administrations was an 'inundation system' which has been and is being gradually altered into an irrigation system, the same rivers having to serve for irrigation and drainage. The Mettur reservoir should have an appreciable effect in steadying the supply of river water in the delta.

[Sir Archibald Campbell] [26th February 1934]

"In 1930, a re-examination of all the irrigation projects which were abandoned in the past on financial grounds, that is on the ground of being non-remunerative, was undertaken with a view to see whether any of them would be worth reviving and whether the surplus of the Famine Relief Fund could be spent on them. Four projects were considered fit for re-examination and they are the Boggeru Project in Nellore district, the Kottur Tank Supply Channel and the Benikal Tank Project in Bellary district and the Kaliveli Swamp reclamation in South Arcot district and the Chief Engineer was ordered to re-examine these projects; his reports subsequently received did not unfortunately show that any of them was worth taking up.

"As regards the tank restoration scheme, about which many hon. Members have spoken, three scheme divisions with the necessary staff were sanctioned in 1928 and functioned till 1931. Then they had to be abolished owing to financial stringency. We have not been able to revive the divisions yet and until funds improve, and the financial condition generally improves, it is not advisable to do so. We have, however, been proceeding with the execution of works, the estimates for which have been prepared by the tank restoration scheme parties. The execution is being carried out by the ordinary staff. I think hon. Members may like to know that the expenditure on the tank restoration scheme repairs amounted to 3 lakhs in 1931-32, and to 2 lakhs in 1932-33 and that 2 lakhs are provided in the revised estimates for this year and Rs. 1,39,000 in the Budget estimates for next year. The cost of completing and carrying out the tank restoration scheme in the whole Presidency is about 40 lakhs.

"In spite of the financial stringency, we have maintained the annual expenditure on the maintenance and repair of minor irrigation works at 13 lakhs including provision for the repair of flood damages. The expenditure on the maintenance and repair of other works has been reduced, but the present figure is about the figure for 1925-26, including again special expenditure for the repair of damage due to cyclones or floods which is always undertaken as quickly as possible.

"I should like, if I may, Sir, to close on a personal note. I realize difficulties of course, that my personal feelings are a mere begatelle compared with the difficulties which the economic depression of the last three years has brought on the people of this Province; but as this is, presumably, the last occasion on which I shall address the House in reply to the general discussion on a Budget, I hope the House will bear with me, if I say how keenly disappointed I am, that I have not been able to do more for the execution of these schemes and programmes of work to which I have referred and to express my earnest hope that the day may not be far distant when under happier and more prosperous conditions, others may be privileged to bring them to fruition and so confer lasting and permanent benefits on the people in the various parts of the Presidency."

* The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, in the general discussion of the Budget this year, as

26th February 1934] [Mr. S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar]

in that of the last, attention has been focussed on the large question of land revenue remission and so, the departments under our care have come in for very little of criticism, such criticisms having been relegated to a later occasion. Our replies have, therefore, necessarily to be brief and I shall make only just a few observations in reply to what the hon. Members have said in regard to my departments. One thing on which I found that needless alarm is entertained by some hon. Members representing the Muslims, the Indian Christians, and the Depressed Classes is with regard to the implementing of the scheme for the concentration and consolidation of elementary schools which has been adumbrated in the report of Mr. Champion. The recent Government Order on the subject, I should think, need give no cause for any such alarm. It has now been for a year before the public from September 1933. Hon. Members of the House might perhaps recollect that in April 1930, Government had communicated to local bodies the report of Mr. Champion and asked them to frame schemes on the lines indicated in the report. And yet, very few schemes had, so far, been received from these local bodies, though more than three years have elapsed. The Retrenchment Committee which considered, among other things, the prevention of wasteful expenditure on elementary education, drew the pointed attention of the Government to this delay in implementing the Champion scheme and urged upon the Government that urgent action was required on the part of the Government. It was on this recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee that the Government began to enquire, as to how the scheme could be expedited and put into operation and as a result of this examination, this Government Order has been passed. The order itself starts by saying that during the three years that have elapsed very little had been done. The main object, therefore, was to stir those people who had to frame such schemes into greater activity than they had exhibited in the past. So, the time limit of two months was prescribed for the framing of these schemes by the Educational Officers and a further time of four months for local authorities and the district educational councils for examination. It was definitely mentioned, Sir, that the schemes need not conform to any prescribed type or design, but it must have relation to the circumstances of the locality in which it was to be brought into effect. Well, when the Government worded the order in these terms, I cannot see, Sir, why all this perturbation should have been caused in the minds of any communities or any interests which might be affected by the consolidation and concentration.

“The schemes have to be examined by the local authorities and 4 p.m. the district educational authorities. They will then undergo a further scrutiny at the hands of the Director of Public Instruction and afterwards will be submitted to Government who have to pass final orders on each scheme. Representations were made to me quite recently by a deputation that waited on me that schemes were being brought into effect without the orders of Government. I had the matter fully examined and it has been reported to me that no such cases have occurred at all. If any such scheme is brought into operation without

[Mr. S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar] [26th February 1934]

the orders of Government, hon. Members would easily realize that it will be in contravention of the terms of the Government Order to which I have just referred.

“ Another matter to which some of the Muslim Members have referred is that the recent Government Order which has permitted religious instruction being imparted to Muslim pupils in schools under Government management and under the management of local bodies has not been put into effect. This order was passed about the end of September 1933 and was received with great satisfaction and appreciation by the Muslim public, and I am sure it is far too soon for the Muslim public to forget what a great thing the Government have done in so radically changing the policy which they had pursued for a long time before. This great change was made in response to the recommendations made by the members of the Muslim Education Committee who are representatives of the Muslim community of this Presidency in this House. One hon. Muslim Member delivered rather an unjustifiable and very violent attack on the Government that, though this order has been passed by the Government, no provision has been made in the present Budget with a view to implement that Government Order, making an insinuation, as it were, that the Government were not bona fide in passing the order which they have done. Well, I can assure not only that hon. Member but also others interested in this particular matter that the Government cannot in the least be accused of any want of bona fides with regard to this matter. I would only remind that Muslim Member and others that there are very few Muslim schools under Government management. At present, their number is 17 and in one of these—a school in Malappuram—there is already provision for religious instruction. So, there are only 16 schools under Government management which are intended exclusively for Muslim pupils and a number of them are training schools. But, under local bodies, I might mention that there are nearly 2,100 schools intended exclusively for Muhammadan pupils, besides the general schools in which Muslim pupils are studying. This Government Order was mainly intended to facilitate local bodies introducing religious instruction in the schools under their management and incurring the necessary expenditure. Have the hon. Members of the Muslim community in this House exerted any pressure on the local bodies in their respective areas to avail themselves of the opportunities given under this Government Order? Not a single local body has come yet before Government asking for any sanction or with any proposal to introduce religious instruction in the schools under their management. After all, as I said, Government schools are so few in number—they are almost negligible, while those under local bodies are nearly 2,100 in number. So, I would earnestly appeal to hon. Members who belong to the Muslim community to get these local bodies to introduce religious instruction in their schools. So far as the Government are concerned, they are certainly moving in the matter. They are examining the question as to what additional staff, if any, would be required, whether part-time instructors would be enough or

26th February 1934] [Mr. S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar]

whether they have to be full-time instructors. I need hardly tell hon. Members of this House that, if full-time men have to be appointed, they would have to be brought in under some particular service governed by statutory rules. Their qualifications and their scales of pay would have to be decided and incorporated in the statutory rules. All these require some time and I am sure they will take the assurance from me that the Government will do their utmost to expedite the matter. The interest of our Muslim friends is, I take it, only to see that religious instruction is provided and not to see that some money is spent on religious instruction whether that expenditure is necessary or not.

“Certain hon. Members referred to the fact that expenditure on education has been decreasing in recent years. My hon. Friend, Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti took the year 1930-31 and said that there has been a fall of nearly 50 lakhs from the provision made in that year. My hon. Friend, I am afraid, has taken a very misleading year for his calculation. In that year, large sums of money had been provided for non-recurring lump sum grants to universities. The Andhra University received about 35 lakhs and the Madras University also received a fairly large sum of 1.35 lakhs. This has mainly accounted for the large provision made in that year for education. I need hardly tell my hon. Friend that we are not living in the same kind of prosperous era, as we did, when such liberal provisions were made for universities. Comparing the provision made last year with the provision made this year, there is very little variation and that variation can be easily accounted for. With regard to University education, there is a small difference of about half a lakh. This is mainly accounted for by the fact that two senior officers of the Indian Educational Service will be away from Madras in the year 1934-35: one will be on foreign service and another in England. So, provision is not made for either of these officers under the head of education in the Budget for 1934-35. This accounts for the variation of .45 lakhs approximately. There is some variation with regard to secondary schools. With regard to primary schools, the variation is only in their favour. There is a larger provision this year. With regard to secondary schools, the decrease is in the provision for grants for buildings and equipment. With regard to teaching grants, there has been no decrease at all. Here again, I would ask, hon. Members to recollect what the Retrenchment Committee had recommended with regard to these grants for buildings and equipment. They said that the Government had already undertaken such large commitments that they should not embark upon any further schemes till all their existing liabilities had been discharged. The Government have been discharging these old liabilities. It is hoped that with the Budget year 1934-35 all the old liabilities will have been discharged. Pending the discharge of old liabilities, an embargo had been placed on the entertainment of any new schemes by the Director of Public Instruction. With regard to equipment, the embargo has been recently removed and whether embargo with regard to building schemes also is to be similarly removed is under the consideration of

[Mr. S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar] [26th February 1934]

Government. I must also say that even the modest demands made by the department for grants for these purposes have been cut down by the Finance Committee. That accounts also for a smaller provision being made under these heads than in previous years. These, I believe, are the main points on which there has been criticism, so far as the department of education is concerned.

“With regard to Excise, there is only one large question which was raised and to which, perhaps, I may make a brief allusion. The hon. Member from Malabar, Mr. Raman Menon, raised a large question that the Government must undertake the distillation of all liquor and the manufacture and sale of all the arrack and toddy that is required in this Presidency. This suggestion is based mainly on the consideration that the system is likely to bring in more revenue to the Government. I am doubtful whether that will be so. More than that, I doubt whether this House would countenance such a change in the policy of the Government, as would probably expose the Government to a greater temptation towards making money in this way than at present. However, I may tell the hon. Member that this question has not been so far examined in all its aspects though it has been considered piecemeal with respect to one aspect or other of it. I shall consider whether it is worth while to make any further and full examination of this question. But it is more than doubtful whether such a scheme will have the acceptance of the Government or of this House.

“My hon. Friend, Mr. Langley, made some very severe and sweeping criticisms against two of the departments in my care. I reserve my reply with regard to those criticisms to a later stage.”

* The Hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—“Mr. President, though only a few hon. Members referred to the departments under my control, yet they have covered a fairly wide field and raised important questions. Messrs. Krishnayya Choudari and Davis, Rai Sahib C. Kolandai Reddi and the Raja of Parlakimedi have referred to the question of prohibition of import of foreign rice into this Presidency. In July 1933, in reply to a reference from the Government of India, this Government have strongly urged the complete prohibition of foreign rice to India in the interests of the agriculturists of this Province. On an interpellation made on the floor of this House in November last, regarding this question, the Government of India have again been addressed on the necessity for either the total prohibition of import of foreign rice or the imposition of prohibitive duties in the interests of rice producing Provinces. The matter is presumably engaging the attention of the Government of India. The Local Government has no voice in the matter as the subject of ‘tariff’ is a central one dealt with by the Government of India. That Government is again being addressed on the subject in view of the recent import of foreign rice into this Presidency. It is hoped that the Central Government will move in that direction soon. Mr. Krishnayya Choudari has referred to the restriction of export to Nizam’s Dominions. This Government have already addressed the Residency at

26th February 1934] [Mr. P. T. Rajan]

Hyderabad to move His Exalted Highness the Nizam's Government to get the rate of the import duty on rice reduced to the limit of 5 per cent *ad valorem* permissible under the Commercial Treaty of 1802. An *interim* reply has been received to the effect that the matter has been taken to the notice of His Exalted Highness the Nizam's Government. The final reply is being awaited. As soon as we get it, the Government of India will be addressed in the matter.

“ My Friend, Rai Sahib C. K. Reddi, referred to the appointment of a marketing officer. I may tell him that orders have been issued recently for the employment of a special officer for examining the conditions of marketing of rice and making recommendations thereon to Government. This appointment is only preliminary to the appointment of a provincial marketing officer and a marketing board, which appointment would be made, in the beginning of the next financial year. The provincial marketing officer will work in collaboration with the marketing officer, who will be appointed by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. My Friend, Mr. Appadurai Pillai, complained that the co-operative societies maintain a huge staff of 500 senior and junior inspectors for a collection of dues of about 300 to 400 lakhs of rupees. I would tell my friend that he seems to be under a misapprehension. Audit and liquidation of societies are obligations imposed on Government by the statute. The Government have, however, sanctioned a staff of 73 junior inspectors for all the societies, at the rate of two to four such officers for each district, as the societies require the supervision of Government at the present stage of the movement. No departmental staff has been sanctioned by Government for collection work. The Registrar might possibly have helped non-officials by deputing some inspectors for collection work, but it is not part of the normal duty of the department to collect arrears or overdues. In recent years, provincial banks and central banks have taken up the work of rectification of societies in earnest and have made some progress. Collection work is bound to be slow owing to depression and the work done so far has not been unsatisfactory. The Raja of Parlakimedi suggested that co-operative societies should come to the help of sugarcane growers by providing them with money at a lower rate of interest and by extending the period of repayment of loans. The rate of interest is settled not by societies; the rates are settled at the conference of central banks and it is not for the Government to tell them what should be the rates of interest that should be fixed. As for long term loans, they are to be given by the Land Mortgage Banks and not by the credit societies, which work only for short-term loans. Attention is, however, paid to the manufacture of sugar on co-operative basis. ”

4-15
p.m.

“ My Friend, Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed, said that there is scope for savings under the establishment of the Public Works Department. I would refer him to Chapter 9 of the report of the Public Works Establishment Committee, in which the recommendations already

[Mr. P. T. Rajan] [26th February 1934]

effected are given in detail. Since then, the following further retrenchments have been made:—

- Abolition of Polavaram subdivision,
- Abolition of Mount subdivision, and
- Abolition of Assistant Superintendent, Public Works Stores Department.

Besides these, certain other proposals for further retrenchment are under the consideration of the Government.

“ Mr. Simhachalam said that the construction of Government buildings is a wastage of expenditure, and instanced the medical school buildings at Guntur. The buildings were constructed at a cost of 3.13 lakhs and were ready for occupation in March 1928. The opening of the medical school was, however, deferred, and in December 1930, the Government, on the recommendation of the Medical Education Committee, ordered that the proposal for the opening of the school should be abandoned. As the buildings could not be disposed of for want of better offer, the Government have allotted them for the use of the secondary training school and training schools for Muslim-men teachers.

“ Mr. Davis, in the course of his speech, referred to the claims of the Anglo-Indians in the matter of appointments. I wish to refer my hon. Friend to the Communal Government Order, in which his community's claims have been recognized. If it is with reference to the Inspector-General of Registration, there is no vacancy now. If and when a vacancy occurs, the claims of the officers in the department will certainly receive every consideration.

“ Now, I turn to the Department of Agriculture. My hon. Friend, Mr. Langley, has questioned the usefulness of the department to the people. It is too late in the day to enumerate in detail the achievements of the department. While referring Mr. Langley and others of his way of thinking to the administration reports of the department for past years, I should like to touch briefly within the short time at my disposal on some of the more important items of the work done in the department. I would also refer all hon. Members to the Villagers' Calendar issued by the department, published every year in all the languages, both vernacular and English.”

MR. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI:—“ *Amavasais* are also given there? ” (Laughter.)

* The Hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—“ Yes, *Amavasais* are also given there. (Laughter.) If the accuracy of the statement or the information given therein is doubted or questioned, I shall be glad to look into the matter. The department has issued to the ryots improved strains of paddy, cotton and sugarcane, and these seeds have given an increased yield varying from 10 to 30 per cent per acre. As regards dry crops, improved strains of cholam and ragi issued to the ryots have been well received by them as yielding an increase of 10 to 15 per cent per acre. On a rough calculation, the acreage under improved strains

26th February 1934]

[Mr. P. T. Rajan]

of paddy has risen from 292,500 to 564,400; under cotton 300,000 to 351,000; under sugarcane from 21,000 to 25,000 and under miscellaneous crops from 95,000 to 140,000. All this has happened within the last three years. With reference to the above figures, the departmental work alone should have given the ryots an additional income of Rs. 5½ lakhs a year under paddy. This amount is made on a modest computation in view of the depressed conditions. Similarly other crops which have received the departmental attention should have contributed liberally to the additional income of the ryots. In view of this, there is no basis whatsoever for the statement of Mr. Langley that the Agricultural Department is not giving the value for the money spent upon it, especially when the amount spent upon the department is only a meagre sum of 18 lakhs a year. The budget of the department for the last ten years varied from 14 to 18 lakhs, though in 1931 it went up to 21 lakhs. Practical demonstrations have been made in the ryot's field, and they have risen from 7,000 to 15,000 for the last three years, demonstration plots have come to 3,000 in number. Exhibitions and magic lantern lectures with the help of motor exhibition vans have become popular with the ryots. Fruit plants of all kinds have been distributed to ryots, and the number of such plants issued has increased from 4,000 to 13,000 in the last three years. Demonstrators are giving the help required by the ryots. The research work in various directions is being done in the college and 837 samples of soils, manures, fertilizers and fodders are being analysed. Systematic study of soils for their characteristics has been taken up and special attention is being paid to composting waste organic vegetation and farm refuse to be used as manure for crops and appreciable progress has been made in this direction. A special section for the study of oil-seeds, like groundnut, castor, gingelly and coconut was formed in 1930, and promising varieties in groundnut are ready to be distributed. Improvements on the varieties have been undertaken. Remedial measures have been taken against pests and diseases such as, paddy stem-borer, rice grass-hopper, coconut betel, hairy caterpillar of dry crops, cotton bowlworm, black headed caterpillar of coconut and moraic disease on sugarcane.

"I quite agree with my Friend, Mr. Langley, that the agriculturists of to-day cannot depend much upon main crops. In view of this, the department has been doing propaganda in favour of sugarcane cultivation, in addition to persuading people to go in for bee-keeping, breeding of silk-worms and poultry farming, as subsidiary industries during the off-season. The department with its limited staff and restricted funds is doing its best to help the ryots to tide over the present difficulties. If the progress is not so rapid as one would like, it is not the fault of the department. It is more owing to the system under which we are working and also to the inherent conservatism of the people. In countries like Italy and Russia, when they were faced with agricultural problems, the Government of those countries took the whole things into their hands, and agricultural operations are being conducted under

[Mr. P. T. Rajan] [26th February 1934]

the control of the State to suit the requirements of the situation. If similar powers are given by this House, the Government, I dare say, will show more rapid progress. As things are to-day, I am afraid, progress must be slow, though steady.

"Coming to the people, the conservatism stands in the way of adopting improvements recommended by the department. Anything done by the department is looked upon with suspicion, as not being in the interests of the people. When the department of Agriculture put in motion the Cotton Transport Act, with a view to secure purity of cotton in different tracts, there was stout opposition on the part of the people. The Cotton Control Act was passed to prevent the cultivation of the inferior variety of cotton in a given area. It will be within the knowledge of the Members of this House that there was a great deal of opposition to this Bill. It was only with great difficulty the Bill was piloted through the Select Committee stage and through this House. It was then felt that the Bill was not in the interests of the people and subsequently the House and the people outside realized that it was in the interest of the cotton-growers that the Act was passed. I have every reason to make this statement, though Mr. Arasu might think otherwise.

"Sir, the same applies with reference to the Madras Commercial Crops Bill. There was a great deal of opposition and it was only after my going round the various districts in the south and after giving the people the assurance that the Bill was conceived in the interests of the people, that all opposition ceased. The Bill has been passed into law and the rules are being framed under the Act and I hope it will be put in motion very soon. For the time being, the Act comes into operation only as regards cotton and when we find that it meets with success, the scope of the Act will be extended to other places and to other crops.

"This naturally brings me to the question of marketing facilities which the people are in need of to-day. No doubt the department has been persuading the people to go in for other crops which would pay them better. Even assuming that the people are willing to accept the recommendations of the department, the whole problem is the question of marketing. World trade is so disorganized at present moment that it is not possible for any one country to get facilities for the disposal of its produce and more so, for a province like Madras which is only a subordinate Government. It is not possible for them to do anything without the consent of the Government of India. For instance, as regards reduction of railway freight, removal of export duty on rice, and imposition of duty on import of rice, this Government has to address the Government of India, as these subjects are dealt with by the latter. Whenever occasion demanded, this Government have addressed the Central Government. As far as marketing facilities in this province are concerned, I hope the appointment of the marketing officer will help to improve local conditions. In this connexion, I would only appeal to the people of this province to organize themselves in such a way, as

26th February 1934] [Mr. P. T. Rajan]

to give the Government and the department concerned, every help in solving the difficulties which the ryots are faced with.

“ Before I conclude my speech, I should like to refer to the question of live-stock but, I am afraid, I have no time. I will refer to that subject in the course of Budget grant. With these few words, I resume my seat.”

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—“ Sir, I do not propose to take up much of the time of the House and I shall be very brief in my replies to the various points raised in the debate for the last three days.

“ My friend, Mr. Sahajanandam, has criticized the Government for not giving adequate representation to the Depressed Classes in panchayats and temple committees. As regards panchayats, I may state for the information of the House that there are three kinds of panchayats: (1) pre-union panchayats, (2) panchayats constituted under the old Panchayat Act, and (3) panchayats constituted under the present Local Boards Act. As regards pre-union panchayats, the Government have been invariably reserving seats to the Depressed Classes. As regards reservation to the other two classes, power has been delegated to the Inspector. To-day, I had an opportunity of getting figures from the Inspector and I find that he has been granting reservations, in some cases one seat and in other cases two. Of course, at the time at my disposal, it is not possible for me to go into the population figures to satisfy myself whether the representation given is sufficient or adequate and if I find that representation has not been given to these communities, Government will carefully examine this question and direct the Inspector to increase the representation. As regards temple committees, hon. Members are aware that power of nomination given to the Government, when the Act was first passed, has now been exhausted. Therefore, it is not fair to criticize the Government for not exercising a power which they do not possess.

“ My friends, Messrs. Muniswami Pillai and Devadasan referred to the cancellation by the Government of the resolution of the Salem Municipality, regarding admission of all communities to hotels and coffee-clubs. I am sorry that, hon. Members had again to refer to this subject, in spite of answers given to them to the questions on various occasions and in spite of the personal explanation that I have given to them. They will realize that, as far as public places, public wells, and tanks maintained from public funds are concerned, this House has had the credit of passing recently a legislation throwing them open to all classes and communities, although similar attempts have failed in the past. But in the case of the resolution passed by the Salem Municipality, the Government are advised by their legal experts that the municipality has exceeded its powers in making it a condition in the licence that these hotels and coffee-hotels are open to all classes and communities. In the case of these licences, they are intended to see that sanitary conditions are fulfilled by the proprietors of the respective hotels. Neither the municipality nor the Government have got power to say

[Raja of Bobbili]

[26th February 1934]

that no licences will be granted, unless these hotels are thrown open to all communities.

“ My hon. Friend, Mr. Peddi Raju, has referred to two or three points one of which was that the Village Development Fund should be restored. I may state that this House will express its opinion on this question tomorrow and it is rather premature to enter into the question of restoring the fund which has not yet been abolished. However, I may state for his information that even under the revised proposals, the fund will not be abolished. It has been abolished only in name but it is retained in the shape of the rural reconstruction fund. As regards the balance of the Village Development Fund, the district boards will now have a statutory obligation of spending three pies in the rupee in non-panchayat areas.

“ The next point, mentioned by my hon. Friend, Mr. Peddi Raju, was the construction of a new hospital at Ellore. Estimates, I believe, were prepared in the year 1927 and they have been found to be out of date. The Surgeon-General has been asked to submit to the Government revised plans and estimates. As soon as they are received, Government will pass orders.

“ As regards the drainage scheme, this question was raised some years ago and it was found that the municipality was unable to finance the scheme successfully. Subsequently in 1929, the municipality addressed the Government and two schemes were drawn up and the municipality has now agreed to take up the cheaper scheme. The report of the Deputy Sanitary Engineer has not been received and as soon as it is submitted to the Government with the remarks of the Sanitary Engineer, the Government will pass favourable orders shortly.

“ My hon. Friend, Mr. Krishnayya Choudari, has suggested that Civil Surgeons and Assistant Surgeons should be debarred from private practice, as in the case of the district health officers. I may mention for the information of my friend that, in the case of district health officers, they are entrusted with preventive work and hence it was considered necessary in the public interests to debar them entirely from private practice. On that account, the scales of pay for district health officers were also fixed higher than those of members of the Madras General Medical Service with similar qualifications. I believe the time has not come for the Government to debar the medical officers entirely from private practice.

“ My hon. Friend, Mr. Langley, mentioned the case of the Kumbum valley road and brought to the notice of the Government that, in the interests of the agriculturists, it was necessary to improve the communications. It is true that the present condition of this road has not been satisfactory. Government have received a report from the Collector and we propose to address the district board on this question.

“ My hon. Friend, Mr. Ellappa Chettiyar, has brought to the notice of the Government the delay caused in the acquisition of lands for forming village roads. It is true that the administration of all public roads

26th February 1934]

[Raja of Bobbili]

and paths was entrusted to local bodies, and it has been found that sufficient care has not been exercised by them for encroachments. The Government have, therefore, decided that all roads and paths not maintained by local bodies, should be entrusted to the Revenue Department. If district boards have a definite programme of road works, and apply to the Government through Collectors in advance, I am sure there will not be any delay in reinvesting particular roads or paths to local bodies. He has also mentioned the other case where delay has been caused in land acquisition. I am afraid this is a matter in which it is very difficult to find a remedy. In the case of land acquisition, many private rights and interests are involved and sometimes, the awards of Government officers are disputed and taken to courts of law. Therefore, it is not a matter entirely in the hands of Government to take steps to expedite the acquisition. However, I shall carefully consider whether it will be possible, as he has suggested, while all these preliminaries are going on, to hand over the lands to local bodies on their depositing the cost.

4-45
p.m.

“Several hon. Members representing Salem have naturally referred at length to the Salem Water-supply Scheme. In answer to a question, I have said that as far as Government are concerned, they have agreed to the sanction of the scheme on the half-loan half-grant basis. The only question now under consideration is the water-rate to be fixed for the municipality. The Government are now going into the details of the matter to determine what exactly should be the water-rate for Salem town, with reference to the rates of assessment levied for Mettur water for Tanjore. I can assure hon. Members that there will be no difficulty in authorizing the municipality to incur the necessary expenditure during 1934-35 for the preparation of detailed plans and estimates.

“I believe, Sir, I have answered briefly the main points raised in this discussion. No doubt, the House will take opportunity when voting for demands, to deal with these and other matters at greater length, when I will be placing further information before the House.”

* The Hon. Sir HOPETOUN STOKES:—“Mr. Deputy President, Sir, my hon. Friend, Mr. Basheer Ahmed, in his preliminary observations doubted whether this debate was really of any practical value and suggested that it should be eliminated. But whatever one may think about that, I think I may say that our debate this year has had a considerable element of, shall I say, reality. We have had quite vigorous cuts and thrusts and altogether it has been quite lively.

“I will first deal with the topic of the pay cut. I am afraid the time is limited and I must cut my remarks to the quarter of an hour before me. I notice that more than one member has modified his view on the subject and is now prepared to agree that, in the circumstances explained by me in my speech, the pay cut is not called for and it would not be justified at the present time. My friend, Mr. Methereil—to whose maiden speech we have, if I may say so, listened during the present Budget debate, with both pleasure and profit—(Sir M. Krishnan Nayar: ‘Hear, hear.’) has been quite explicit on the point. It was not, in his instance, a case of changing his opinion—for he had hitherto expressed none—so that I may

[Sir Hopetoun Stokes]

[26th February 1934]

take it that he is generally satisfied with the argument as presented by me. I do not overlook the fact that he has declined to accept the argument, which he attributes to me, that the anticipation of a 'fortune round the corner' is an inducement to a prospective candidate for employment to select private *versus* Government employment especially when the post he seeks is that of a subordinate clerk. With all respect to my friend, Mr. Metherell, I did not advance any such argument. I am aware, no less fully than my friend, that especially in these years of depression, fortunes do not usually 'await round the corner' even principals in business, much less their subordinates. In fact, it might be truer of the past few years to say that the coy damsel of fortune has disappeared round the corner rather than awaited in that concealment the advent of the happy business-men who may come to catch her. I did, it is true, refer to the fact that Government service does not offer a man a prospect of a fortune and this is true. It may be said 'Neither does a business career as things are at present.' That also, is true. But the fact remains that to a man of ability, even though he starts as an office-boy, a business career has in the past—though not the recent past—offered prospects or at least possibilities of affluence greater than anything which an official can ever expect, unless my reading of the lives of greatest businessmen is entirely at fault. I venture to suggest that my friend has read more into the phrase I used than I intended. My main point, with which I gather that he is in agreement is that, broadly speaking, the principal attraction of Government service is its security and that Government cannot and should not—when they have given a pledge to their servants as we have—depart from that pledge otherwise than as a last expedient, if they are to secure for the future as efficient and honest service as in the past. As Mr. Metherell has put it, the Government 'could not play fast and loose with the persons that serve them.'

"The argument has frequently been advanced with reference to the pay-cut that, as there was a large increase of pay when prices were high during and immediately after the war, so it would be reasonable to cut the pay, now that prices have fallen. Taking the superior Provincial Services, I find that their pay was revised in 1919 on the recommendation of the Islington Commission. That Commission reported actually before the war—I think in 1913 or 1914—and though it took note of the increase in prices up to that date, it repudiated any attempt to revise the scales of pay of the various services (All-India and Provincial) upon that basis. The Commission said:

'The only safe criterion is that Government should pay so much and so much only to their employees as is necessary to obtain recruits of the right stamp and to maintain them in such a degree of comfort and dignity as will shield them from temptation and keep them efficient for the term of their service. Whilst, therefore, we have noted the rise in prices which has taken place, we have not based on this any general recommendation. Where we have advised changes of salary, it has been to meet inequalities of remuneration prejudicial to efficiency, to fulfil expectation reasonably founded on formal announcements made by Government and to improve recruitment, where the existing terms have been shown to be insufficient to obtain a satisfactory personnel.'

26th February 1934] [Sir Hopetoun Stokes]

“ This criterion of fixing the pay of the various services was generally approved by the Government of India. It was on this basis that revisions of salaries of the various Provincial Services in the Madras Presidency were carried out during the period 1919-1921.

“ Prior to that revision, the minimum and maximum pay of a Provincial Service was Rs. 250 and Rs. 700 respectively. After revision, the minimum and maximum pay have been Rs. 300 and Rs. 850 respectively with a selection grade carrying a scale of Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,200 in the case of some Provincial Services.

“ So far as the subordinate and menial services (including village servants) are concerned, it is true that the increase was large, much larger than in the superior services and the addition to the salary bill on this account came to about 2 crores. It is also true that the increase was given mainly with reference to the rise in prices during and after the war, though even here the Government felt that they could not continue on the basis of the pittance of Rs. 15 or Rs. 20 for a clerk and Rs. 6 for a peon which had prevailed since 1890 or 1894. If we are to apply the argument for a cut based on the present fall in prices, it should apply in a greater measure to these classes than to the superior. But these are precisely the classes which I gather the Council desires not to touch, or, if it touches at all, to touch only slightly. So much for the particular argument which I have been alluding to.

“ These considerations apart, I still hold that the fact of our promise to our servants remains. We would not be justified in departing from them.

“ Mr. Metherell observed that a surplus should not be an end in itself and suggested that Government should stimulate economic recovery. Other speakers dwelt at length on the same point; Mr. Shetty, for instance, wanted an economic survey by experts to be followed by a well-thought-out economic programme and the employment of an Economic Advisory Council or Bureau for co-ordinating the various aspects of agricultural and industrial activities. I think, I can assure Mr. Metherell that we do not regard a surplus as an end in itself, except in so far as we have thought it our duty in these difficult times to make ends meet. For the rest, the scheme for an economic survey is on foot, and this Government will no doubt be ready to co-operate with the Government of India so far as it can afford to do so. But I need hardly say that the reduction in the land revenue which we have given, to say nothing of the demand which this Council has passed for a concession which would cost us about Rs. 160 lakhs a year, is not going to make it easier for the Government to secure the fulfilment of either Mr. Shetty's proposals, or any other of the counsels of perfection, which various members have pressed upon us.

“ I may mention now that what we have given (if continued for fasli 1344) is going to cost us Rs. 155 lakhs in three faslis, while the 25 per cent proposal for 1343 and 1344 coupled with the concession given for 1342, would have cost us in the three faslis Rs. 360 lakhs in round figures.

[Sir Hopetoun Stokes] [26th February 1934]

"Certain members have objected to the course of drawing on our balances for capital expenditure instead of charging it to loan funds. They thought that, if this were done, our balances would be in a much sounder condition and that we would be able to tide over the present crisis for a much longer period. Mr. Koti Reddi took the same point. He urged that all capital expenditure—whether remunerative or not remunerative, e.g., buildings for offices, etc.—should be met by borrowing. It has always been the practice of this Government when it was affluent to pay for a good deal of miscellaneous capital expenditure from current revenues. Since 1920-21 we have thus met yearly expenditure of what is strictly speaking of a 'capital' nature, to the amount on the average of about Rs. 36 lakhs a year. Some of this is no doubt (though I have not examined the details throughout) expenditure on comparatively small schemes, but, in any case, having regard to the total of our expenditure, it is not a large amount. We cannot always add to our debt whenever, for example, we want to build a Deputy Tahsildar's office, or an officer's bungalow. Suppose, however, that we had strictly adhered to the principle which Mr. Koti Reddi advocates, what would have been our position in 1931-32 onwards when the depression came upon us? Instead of being able to reduce expenditure on buildings, etc., at once, we should have been saddled with an additional, an unavoidable, debt charge involving the payment (including interest) of Rs. 46·8 lakhs in 1931-32; Rs. 50·2 lakhs in 1932-33, Rs. 48·5 in 1933-34 and Rs. 46·7 lakhs in 1934-35. If we can afford to do so, it is obviously better to pay for buildings for relatively minor schemes, etc., from current revenues or from revenue balances. By so doing, we, in effect, conserve our debt position, which, largely, as the result of this policy, is an exceptionally strong one.

"As regards Mr. Yahya Ali's point, his idea is that we should by charging all capital expenditure to loans, leave so much more on the revenue side of the revenue account available for meeting the land revenue concessions. It might, no doubt, be possible to do something of this kind, but as I have stated, there is no great advantage in borrowing when and if you can avoid doing so. Whatever revenue deficit might result from the grant of land revenue remissions on the scale suggested by the House, must be in addition to the charges for the further sums borrowed which are only payable from revenue. In other words, the effect of the suggestion might well be that, instead of drawing from the balances and paying no interest, we draw our balances to the extent of our deficit, and pay interest on our loans as well. In any case, it is pretty certain that the suggested arrangement would be in the long run far more costly than that we have actually adopted.

"Then Mr. Yahya Ali inquired why we did not or do not take a loan in the open market, and thus get the benefit of the low Bank rate. I do not think the current bank rate is a guide in the matter of a Government loan. During 1933-34 the Government of India (Provincial Loan Account) rate has been $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent for 'productive' and $4\frac{3}{4}$ per cent for 'unproductive' loans. I find that in August 1933 the Punjab Government borrowed at the equivalent of 4·17 per cent.

26th February 1934] [Sir Hopetoun Stokes]

“About the same time Cochin had to pay 5 per cent and also to exempt the holder from the State income-tax; in December, Mysore borrowed at 4 per cent with exemption from both State and British India income-tax. In April 1933, the Government of India were able to borrow at the equivalent of 3.65 per cent. If we borrowed for 1934-35, it would be for one of two objects, either (1) to meet capital expenditure in 1934-35 or (2) to repay former loans to the Government of India. I have already dealt with the former point. Actually we are not borrowing in 1934-35 at all. As regards the second, the Government of India have refused to accept repayment of earlier loans before their due date. 5 p.m.

“Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti propounded and elaborated at considerable length a proposition with which, had it come from a less prominent Member of the House, it might not have been necessary for me to deal at any length. He declared that the Budget was deliberately starving the nation-building departments and that this was because the Government, as soon as agitation declined, felt that they could with impunity starve the Transferred departments. Such a thesis says more for the ingenuity of him who advances it than for his sense of fairness. It also pays a poor compliment to the various distinguished gentlemen who have occupied the posts of Ministers since 1920-21, and more especially in the past three years. His argument was based on the fact that, since retrenchment set in, there has been a fall in the appropriations (comparing 1934-35 with 1930-31) of 20 per cent while in those for the Reserved departments and those common to both Reserved and Transferred of 8 per cent a piece. The figures are approximately correct. I am sure that Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti was perfectly well aware that, so far from Government having adopted in the past a niggardly attitude towards the Transferred or nation-building departments, the lion's share of the Government resources has been allotted to them. I find that as compared with 1920-21, the increase in 1930-31 which was the peak year of expenditure, was as follows:—Education 116 per cent, Medical and Public Health 93 per cent, Agriculture and Industries 94 per cent, Road grants 189 per cent, Irrigation 71 per cent, while on the other hand Land Revenue and General Administration 13 per cent, Justice, Jails and Police 21 per cent and Pensions and Debt Services—over which we have no control—64 per cent. In spite of retrenchment, the increase in 1934-35 as compared with 1920-21 given to Education has been 80 per cent, that for Medical and Public Health 67 per cent, for Agriculture and Industries 51 per cent, for Roads and Bridges, etc., grants 126 per cent, for Irrigation 53 per cent. On the other hand in Land Revenue and General Administration the increase has been only 4 per cent, in Administration of Justice and Jails only 2 per cent and in Police 9 per cent. In Pensions and Debt Services, over which we have no control, there has been an increase of 46 per cent largely due to our greater borrowings for remunerative schemes. That being so, it is inevitable that when we had to retrench all round, as we had in 1931-32 and subsequently, the departments which had most benefited in our days of affluence should show a larger percentage than the others. We had to cut our coat according to our cloth and we had to

[Sir Hopetoun Stokes] [26th February 1934]

cut away the superfluous portions of the coat, before we came to the essential parts of it. Even with these reduction the Transferred departments and Development services show a large increase in 1934-35 as compared with 1920-21. They still display a percentage increase of nearly 56 per cent, as compared with a similar increase of only $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent for the Reserved departments—namely, security services.

“ Mr. Natesa Mudaliyar, shed tears over the heartless retrenchment that had been effected and the large numbers of employees turned out. I have unfortunately not been able, in the time available, to obtain precise figures. In March 1932, I think in reply to an interpellation, it was stated that the number turned out was 2,992. But I should like to remind Mr. Natesa Mudaliyar that retrenched men have, generally speaking, under the orders of Government a first claim for re-employment when opportunity offers; further that in many cases, the turning out consisted in mere reversions to their permanent posts. And probably a certain number have since been re-employed either in their old offices or elsewhere. In the case of establishments on a temporary footing the orders of Government provide for a gratuity in the case of certain temporary establishments who had put in long service on a temporary footing.

“ Mr. Natesa Mudaliyar went on to dilate on the existence of 485 graduates and 700 school-final men who are unemployed in Madras. He cited the contrast of Germany where he said that unemployment was non-existent, and the word ‘pauper’ was unknown. Another speaker also, Mr. Ramaswami Mudaliyar advocated the adoption of German methods. I am afraid Mr. Natesa Mudaliyar must have misunderstood his authorities, for it is well known that the Nazi or National Socialist Revolution which has taken place in Germany was facilitated, if not caused by, the fact that since the depression the number of German unemployed swelled into millions. In a work on the subject which appeared a few months ago I find that by September 1933 the Nazi Administration was able to point with pride to the fact that they had been able to reduce the number to about $4\frac{1}{2}$ millions only! And to this result the Nazi Government it appears, have contributed in part at least by conscripting all unemployed persons—regardless of class or education to labouring gangs, comprising about 350,000 men. Mr. Ramaswami Mudaliyar told us that these numbers have now grown to a million. These men are forced to work at manual labour for six hours a day and to listen to lectures for three hours more, receiving about 30 pfennig or 6d. a day for wages. Doubtless, an admirable discipline. But I wonder whether my friend, Mr. Natesa Mudaliyar, would like us to adopt similar methods. . . . (Rao Bahadur C. Natesa Mudaliyar:— ‘We may adopt pre-Nazi methods.’) Perhaps my friend wants us to adopt pre-German methods. I wonder whether he would like us to send his 485 unemployed graduates to quarry road metal for the Corporation at Pallavaram for six hours a day, followed by suitable lectures for three more!

“ My friend, Mr. Langley accuses me of inconsistency because in paragraph 2 of my speech I referred to what seemed to be silver

26th February 1934] [Sir Hopetoun Stokes]

streaks in the cloud of depression. If this is optimism, I wonder what he would consider pessimism! I rejoice to find that he agrees that for our present ills mere remission of taxation is no cure but a mere palliative. He calls for a bold policy of capital expenditure—all from loans, I presume—for road construction, running, if necessary into crores. I hope I may infer from this that he has thought better of the support which he gave to the 25 per cent cut proposal; for he knows—none better—that you cannot pay your way if on the one hand you decrease your receipts materially and at the same time increase your expenditure especially when that expenditure is not productive.

“As regards his particular suggestion for a road scheme, it has to be remembered that roads have to be maintained for the most part by the local bodies, and with their present resources, it is useless adding to their burdens in this respect. Apart from this, the whole question of road policy is now under consideration and is complicated by the rival interests of the Railway systems.

“I think, Mr. Langley observed also that our revenues were inelastic. I quite agree with him. This fact has been repeatedly put before the House, and it has caused me to view with greater dismay the policy which the House in its recent resolution saw fit to favour.

“Mr. Langley and other speakers asked ‘why are no means of raising taxation formulated?’ I think my friend, Mr. Raman Menon, suggested certain specific expedients. I hope it may not be necessary to impose further taxation, but, should it be so, I shall derive encouragement from the advice which these gentlemen have given.

“Several speakers have asked why could not Government have accepted the 18½ per cent proposal of the Finance Committee. One reply I might make is that the House itself did not accept it; nor was any amendment advocating it moved by any one of those who now declare that they favoured it.

“The main point, however, is that the addition of another 12 or 13 lakhs would add little to the effectiveness of what is after all a palliative only and not a cure. If the many speakers who have advocated the grant of 25 per cent. are right, the position is such that practically no conceivable remission will solve the crisis. Yet my friend, Mr. Pannirselvam, told us this morning, with much emphasis, that if only Government would give what the Finance Committee have suggested, i.e., about 13 lakhs more, he and presumably most others who share his view-point would be perfectly satisfied. Are we then to infer that the measure of the necessity is what the Government have given plus 13 lakhs? But, if not, what does this figure represent except the result of a haggle and a rather meaningless haggle between the two sides?

“I have no doubt that, in their speeches, hon. Members of the House have used language reflecting—I doubt not—the warmth and sincerity of their feelings. The Government are forced to take a more dispassionate view. They are fully conscious, as I have stated in my speech, of the difficulties in which the agriculturists are struggling, and they have

[Sir Hopetoun Stokes] [26th February 1934]

given remissions such as they can safely concede having regard to the present and prospective position of their finances. The House may rest assured that they will continue carefully to watch the situation, and will spare no effort to devise suitable measures so far as their resources permit from time to time. In his wise and statesmanlike speech in to-day's debate, Sir A. P. Patro, has sought to face the matter in the dry light in which it should be faced. In this his recent experience of the realities of Constitutional experiments has no doubt been of great value to him. But the various measures he suggests and those of other Members must take time and must cost money, and the surest way to defeat them is to deprive the Government of the means to give effect to them.

"Sir, I have been accused of harshness, want of sympathy, etc., and a lot of bad names. There is the proverb 'hard words break no bones.' I say no more about that. What I wish to point out is that the Budget is not—certainly not—a prosperity one. I never meant it to be regarded as such. I long ago urged upon this House that for the future we must not allow ourselves to be mesmerised by these fascinating balances—the result of a sudden access to revenue owing to the abolition of the Central contribution. I urged that we must cut our coat according to our cloth, as Mr. Ramalingam Chetti has, in this debate, been insisting that we should do. In the year 1931-32, I pressed this aspect of the matter and the House approved of this policy and it is what the Government have been pursuing. I fear the debate on the 25 per cent resolution indicated that the full reality of the position was not sufficiently present in the minds of Members and I think I should have been failing in my duty if I had not put the position as frankly, not to say bluntly, as possible. We know that it is unpleasant to hear unpleasant things but I feel sure the House will acquit me of any intention to give pain. I believe—if I may draw inferences from the effect of my presentation of the case on so many of the more reflective Members—that my object in presenting the matter, as I have done, has been attained. After all, as it seems to me, the alternatives are either to deprive the Government of revenues and disable them from carrying through even such urgent measures as are within their power to deal with the situation—to say nothing of making provision for further progress—or in the alternative to allow the money taken to fructify as one newspaper observed, in the pocket of the Government for the good of all concerned. This is an aspect of the question to which, I hope, the present debate will have given more prominence than it has hitherto received. It is, Sir, one of great importance and will, I trust, in future not be forgotten.

"Sir, time will not permit of my dealing with many other points which were touched on in the speeches of hon. Members. I can assure them however, that this does not mean that they will receive no attention or consideration on our part."

The House then adjourned to meet again at 11 o'clock the next day.

R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.